THE NEW
INDIAN EXPRESS
BENGALURU • MONDAY • JULY 27, 2020 • ₹7.00 • PAGES 34 • LATE CITY EDITION

Panel to interview RBI Deputy Governor candidates on Aug 7

New Delhi: A search panel headed by the Cabinet Secretary is scheduled to interview shortlisted candidates on August 7 for the post of RBI Deputy Governor, sources said. The post fell vacant after Deputy Governor N S Vishwanathan demitted office three months ahead of tenure on March 31.

Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

As envisioned by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Karnataka Government is striving to strike a balance between lives and livelihoods in the quest of progress.

A Great Relief for a Challenging Year

Shri B. S. Yediyurappa
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Karnataka

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

A fulfilling year for the Government, led by Chief Minister Shri B.S. Yediyurappa.

The administration has continued to drive Karnataka's development in the face of challenges such as unprecedented floods and COVID-19, a Global Pandemic.

COVID-19: Special Package

Rs. 2,272 Crore provided as relief to workers of unorganized sector, flower, fruit & vegetable growers, weavers, taxis, auto drivers, hairdressers, laundrymen and leather craftsmen badly affected during the lockdown and to facilitate small and large enterprise sector.

State Government has initiated construction of Kempegowda statue near Kempegowda International Airport,Bengaluru.

Assistance to Farmers

- Under Pradhan Mantri Kissan Samman Yojana an additional amount of Rs.4000 has been given to each farmer. As a result, more than 50 lakh farmers have benefitted during times of flood as well as COVID-19.
- Amendment to APMC Act has helped farmers to get remunerative prices for Agricultural Produce in the open market under 'Nanna Bele, Nanna Hakku' (My Crop – My Right)

Natural Disaster – Relief on Priority

- Due to a record rainfall in the last 118 years, 119 Taluks from 25 Districts have been declared as flood affected.
- The State Government has sanctioned Rs.6108 Crore including Rs.1869 Crore relief that was given by Central Government towards flood relief, repairs of infrastructure facilities and other related works.

Development of Rural Areas

- Tap water facility will be provided to all households in rural areas under Mane Manege Gange scheme by 2023 to improve the standard of life of rural people.
- 'Functioning Household Tap Connection' (FHTC) facility is being provided to 23.57 Lakh rural households at an estimated cost of Rs.8984.52 Crore.

Prevention of COVID-19

COVID-19: Distribution of Facilities

- Lockdown was enforced to contain the spread of COVID-19.
- Adequate food supply and ration was ensured for migrant workers during the lockdown.
- High Flow Oxygen Facility provided in all District and Taluk Hospitals, facilitating timely treatment of infected people in order to save lives.

Support for Entrepreneurs

- Fixed charge in Electricity Bills of small entrepreneurs waived off.
- Large-scale industries supported with postponement of payment of fixed charges in electricity bills without interest.

Loan Waiver for Fisherman

- Rs.60 Crore of loans waived off for 23,507 fishermen, especially fisherwomen's loans upto Rs.50,000/- from commercial banks were waived off.

Loan Waiver for Weavers

- Loans worth Rs.98 crore from Co-operative banks have been waived off benefitting 29,631 weavers. This facility is also extended to weavers who repaid the loan between January and March 31, 2019.
- Under Nekara Samman Yojane, financial assistance of Rs. 2000/- was provided to handloom weavers.

The Era of Kalyana Karnataka

- Priority is given to the development of 21 backward Taluks of Kalyana Karnataka.
- A bench of Karnataka Administrative Tribunal at Kalaburagi has been established benefitting Government employees of this region.

Industrial Development

- The Hon'ble Chief Minister who participated in the World Economic Forum at Davos, Switzerland had discussions with more than 40 prestigious MNCs and was successful in persuading them to invest in Karnataka.
- Amendment to Land Reforms Act 1961 Section 109 & repeal of Section 79 A, B, C & 80 retrospectively will help Farmers and Industrialists.
- Kalaburagi & Bidar Airports have been inaugurated and work on Shivamogga Airport is in progress.
- Launch of "Skill Connect" a portal to bring together employers and job seekers on a common platform is a boon to the unemployed youth.

"To protect and respect our varied culture and traditions" -is the fundamental duty of every Citizen of our Country. Enshrined in the Constitution

karnataka information
Department of Information and Public Relations

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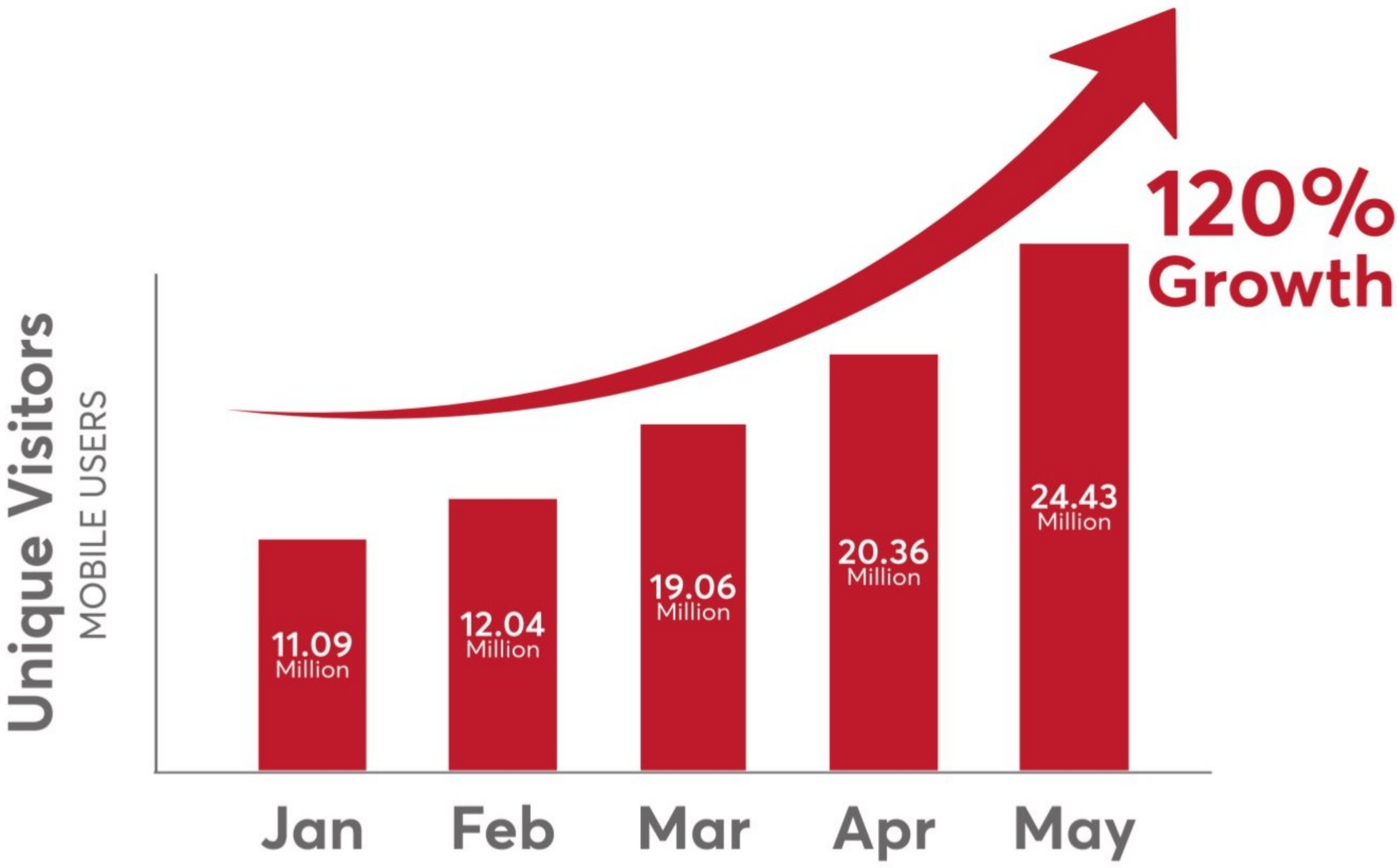

The websites of **The New Indian Express Group** recorded **120% growth** on mobile platform from Jan - May 2020

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*Source: Comscore Mobile Metrix (India), Jan - May 2020 Data, Key Measures Report, Unique Visitors for Mobile Web

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BENGALURU • MONDAY • JULY 27, 2020 • ₹7.00 • PAGES 34 • LATE CITY EDITION

JAWANS HONOURED

Soldiers of the Bihar Regiment pay tribute to the Indian soldiers killed in the 1999 Kargil War, in Patna, on Sunday. Commemorations were held at the National War Memorial in Delhi and across the country | PTI

NATION PAYS TRIBUTE TO ITS WAR HEROES ON KARGIL DIWAS

Amid tensions in eastern Ladakh, India commemorated 21 years of victory over Pakistan in the Kargil war on Sunday

MODI HAILS VALOUR OF JAWANS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, In his monthly *Mann ki Baat* radio address, praised the war heroes. "Pakistan's mis-adventurism was given a befitting reply, and the world witnessed the valour of India's brave jawans," he said. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, paying his tributes, said, "Kargil is not only a symbol of national pride, but also a big step against injustice." | P9

'INDIA WON'T FORGET THE BETRAYAL'

- Modi noted India was trying to improve ties with Pak in 1999, but was back-stabbed. "We can't forget the betrayal," he said
- The war ended on July 26, 1999 after India flushed out the Pakistani soldiers who had crossed the border. As per official sources, 527 Indian jawans were killed. Pakistan lost 1,042 soldiers

May 3, 1999

WHEN INDIAN SHEPHERDS FIRST SPOTTED PAKISTANI ENCROACHMENT

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

RAFALE JETS ON THE WAY

The first batch of five Rafale jets will take off from Merignac, France on Monday. After a brief halt in the UAE, the fleet will touch down at the Indian Air Force base in Ambala, Haryana on Wednesday

AIRCRAFT SPECIFICATION

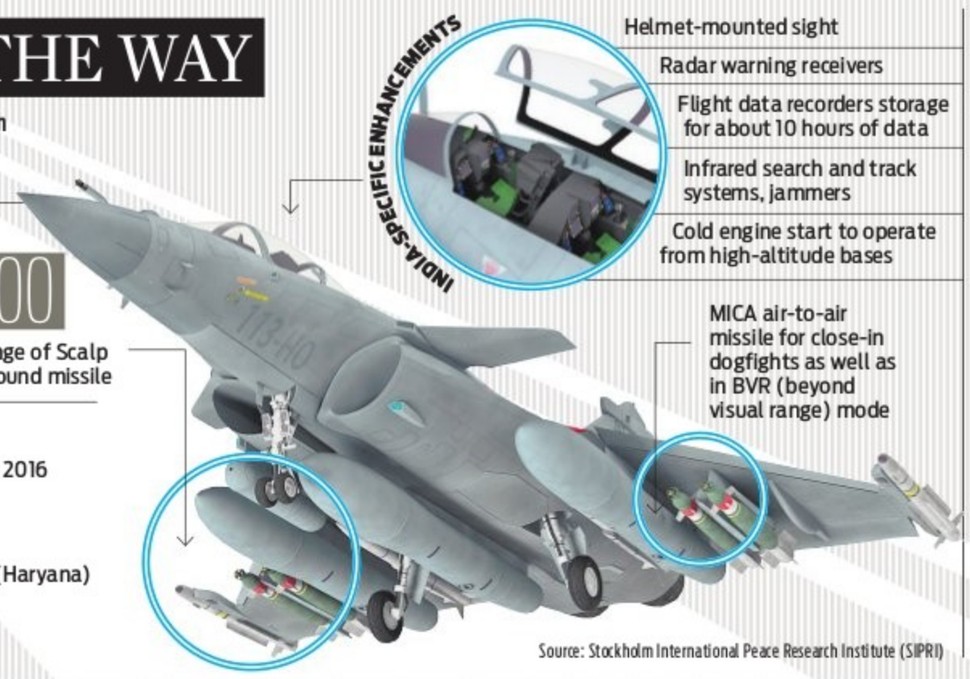
Wing span	10.90 m
Length	15.30 m
Height	5.30 m
Max Speed	750 knots (around 1,400 kmph)
Max height	50,000 ft
Combat range	780-1,650 km
Overall empty weight	10 tonnes
Max takeoff weight	24.5 tonnes
Pilot	One

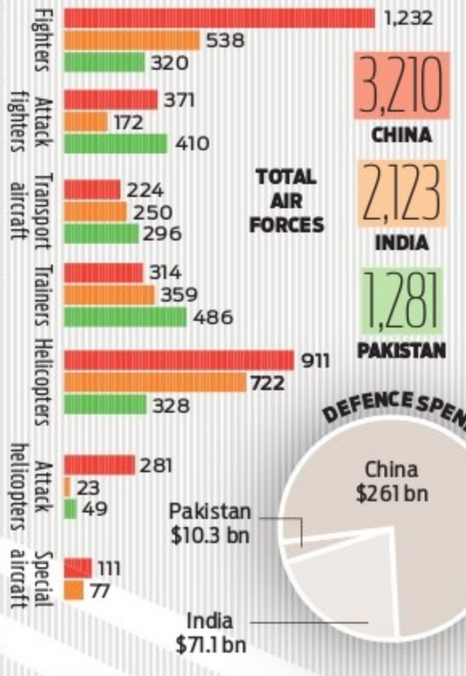
WEAPONS AND MISSILES

- **14** Store stations across India
- **120-150** kilometres is the range of Meteor air-to-air missile
- **300** km is range of Scalp air-to-ground missile

DEAL AND DEPLOYMENT

- ₹59,000 crore deal for 36 fighters finalised in September 2016
- 5 of 36 fighters to be inducted on July 29
- All 36 fighters to be delivered by April 2022
- Will add two squadrons to combat squadrons
- First squadron, 17 Golden Arrows, to be based in Ambala (Haryana) for western border with Pakistan
- Second squadron, 101 Falcons, to be based in Hashimara (West Bengal) for eastern borders with China


INDIA-SPECIFIC ENHANCEMENTS
Helmet-mounted sight
Radar warning receivers
Flight data recorders storage for about 10 hours of data
Infrared search and track systems, jammers
Cold engine start to operate from high-altitude bases
MICA air-to-air missile for close-in dogfights as well as in BVR (beyond visual range) mode



Source: Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)

EXPRESS READ

Threat of coronavirus far from over, says PM

New Delhi: India's Covid-19 recovery rate is better than other countries and its fatality rate is less as well, but its threat is far from over, PM Narendra Modi said on Sunday.

File report on internal security, top cop told

Bengaluru: The Karnataka government has directed DG&IGP Praveen Sood to file a report on internal security, following UN's observation on ISIS activities in the state. P5

BSY to release book, film on achievements

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister B S Yediyurappa completed one year in office on Sunday, and a digital event to mark the occasion will be held on Monday. In keeping with Sunday lockdown norms, Yediyurappa chose to postpone his government's anniversary bash by a day, and given the pandemic crisis, the 78-year-old four-time CM will unveil a book on his government's achievements over the past year. The event, like his address to the state, will be live-streamed on YouTube and Facebook.

With the theme 'Savaalugala Varsha, Parihaarada Sparsha' (Healing touch in a year of challenges), the event will include screening of a 10-minute docu-film about Yediyurappa and his cabinet's administration. P5

WITH THIS ISSUE
THE ESSENTIAL CAMPUS DIGEST
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34 PAGES, INCLUDING 16 OF edex (TABLOID), 4 OF CITY EXPRESS

Gehlot sends 2nd proposal to Guv, mum on floor test

Cong to step up political pressure, mulls withdrawing petition from Supreme Court

RAJESH ASNANI & RICHA SHARMA @ Jaipur / New Delhi

IN a new twist to the crisis in Rajasthan, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has sent a second proposal to Governor Kalraj Mishra for calling an Assembly session from July 31, even as the Congress is planning to withdraw the Special Leave Petition (SLP) filed in the Supreme Court to make it a political battle than a legal one.

While Gehlot has been pushing for an Assembly session, it was felt a legal battle will be a long-drawn one and it is better to build pressure on the political front.

On Monday, the Supreme Court is slated to hear Rajasthan Assembly Speaker C P Joshi's Special Leave Petition challenging the Rajasthan HC order staying disqualification proceedings against 19 Congress MLAs led by Sachin Pilot.

The party's top leadership is of the view that the issue should be fought politically rather than legally, and that the petition be withdrawn and Gehlot should continue pushing for an Assembly session. It is likely that the SLP will be withdrawn as that would also delay Gehlot's demand for an immediate assembly session," said a senior Congress leader.

Curiously, in his proposal, Ashok Gehlot listed discussion on Covid-19 as part of the agenda of the Assembly session, but there was no mention of a floor test.

The Governor had turned down the earlier proposal saying that it did not mention a date or rationale for the House session.

Meanwhile, the Congress on Sunday accused the Governor of acting in a partisan manner at the behest of the BJP.

"The Governor is bound to function with the aid and advice of the state government, but he is listening to his master's voice — the government at the Centre," Congress leader Abhishek Manu Singhvi said.

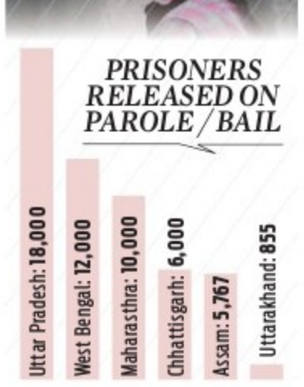
But Union Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal rubbished the charges, saying that the Governor has the right to take decisions according to his discretion under Article 163B.

Covid situation alarming: Guv

Rajasthan Governor Kalraj Mishra on Sunday expressed concern over growing coronavirus infections in the state, and said the number of active cases has tripled since July 1

KARNATAKA COVID-19 BATTLE
5,199
Test positive on Sunday
82 FATALITIES ON SUNDAY
TOTAL CASES 96,141
1,878 Total Deaths
35,838 Total Recoveries so far
36 Railway cops posted at the KSR Station in Bengaluru test +ve
Designated hospital in Belagavi faces ventilator shortage
Private hospital in Hubballi begins plasma therapy
REPORTS: P6

JAILS RACING AGAINST TIME IN FIGHT AGAINST CORONAVIRUS



BALA CHAUHAN, M S THANARAJ, ASISH MEHTA, RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR
@ B'luru/Tiruchy/ Bhubaneswar/Patna

WHILE the rest of the country is trying to beat the coronavirus pandemic with lockdowns, physical distancing norms and personal hygiene, India's crowded prisons are staring at the prospects of becoming the next big virus clusters.

"It is impossible to maintain social distance among the prisoners inside the cells," said a senior prison official at Bengaluru's Parappana Agrahara Central Prison, which houses 4,600 inmates. The jail has reported 51 infections, including six among jail staff. In all, 157 inmates and 24 staff tested positive across nine Central prisons in the state.

In neighbouring Tamil Nadu, 150 prisoners and 92 jail staff have contracted Covid.

India's worst-hit state, Maharashtra, has reported the largest number of positive cases among prisoners at over 800, followed by Assam at 481.

The horrendous state of affairs in jails caught public attention after the Assam Human Rights Commission issued notices to Assam Chief Secretary and the IGP (Prisons) last week, in response to complaints of violation of Covid-19 protocol in jails.

According to experts, the situation in prisons is explosive and the actual infections could be much higher than reported. Many cases go unnoticed due to lack of tests as a large number of patients turn out to be asymptomatic.

It is not that prisons are not doing their bit to contain the virus spread. Thousands of prisoners across the country were released on parole or bail to decongest jails. Most prisons have also taken possible measures to contain infections among inmates and jail staff, but the pandemic is reportedly spreading fast in these high-security zones.

Kerala, for instance, don't send remand prisoners to jails directly. Instead, they are taken to first-line treatment centres, where their swab samples are collected.

CONTINUED ON: P9

Patel, Acharya break silence on premature exit from central bank

SUNITHA NATTI @ New Delhi

They came. They saw. But left without conquering. Dr Urjit Patel and Dr Viral Acharya's tryst with the RBI as Governor and Deputy Governor respectively was short, but the duo's synchronised moves shook the banking sector and the sovereign for the most part of their tenure.

Incidental or not, both released their books last Friday, and should be read together for a 360-degree view of the ills ailing India's banking sector, how the government caused its destruction, and is unwittingly rooted to its spot from making it any better. But neither offers an account of the differences with the bureaucracy and how and when the government wields its influence.

If Patel's book *Overdraft* dealt at in length about the genesis of bad loans led by the government while the banking regulator astonishingly looked the other way, Acharya's book *Quest For Restoring Financial Stability in India*, is a collection of his speeches at RBI and working papers with policy prescriptions. Their tenure was the most tenuous in recent memory and their relationship with the government swung from receiving adulation to being in the line of fire in no time, as Acharya notes.

Tied to a common goal of overhauling the financial system, they proposed decisive reforms to change ownership of state-run banks, putting weaker lenders under stringent Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) norms, enforcing timely recognition of losses and resolution of stressed assets and pushing for full disclosures on bank defaults. Some like re-privatisation of banks or the bad bank remained as proposals, while others like NPAs recognition saw moderate success though the next critical steps including restructuring or resolution have much ground to cover. P12

MISSION MODE

Covid-cured netas on awareness drive

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

RARING to go after recovering from Covid-19, a bunch of political leaders are now in mission mode to build confidence among their constituents that the disease can be overcome after all, while stressing on the need to stay safe and follow medical protocols. While stressing on the importance of early identification and treatment, some of them have been visiting Covid patients, while a few others have started Covid war rooms in their respective constituencies.

Minister for Tourism and Kannada and Culture, C T Ravi, who tested negative after following a strict regimen of ayurvedic medicines, two-hour walks and an hour of other exercises, said he plans to tour Chikkamagaluru district along with Dr M Mohan Alva of the Alva's Education Foundation, Moodbidri, Dr Giridhar Kaje of Bengaluru, and tell people not to panic, but to focus on improving their immunity levels.

Ravi said that he will also reach out to people through social media to tell them that overcoming fear is the key. "I have put together a team to ensure honourable funerals for the dead who have no one to do the last rites." P7

Minister Anand Singh tests +ve for Covid-19

State Forest Minister Anand Singh has tested positive for Covid-19, sources said on Sunday. Singh's swab sample was collected on Friday, which was found to be infected on Saturday. P5

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ALMANAC TODAY

• **Monday** 27/07/2020 • **Year:** Sarvari • **Ayana :** Dakshinayana • **Ritu:** Varsha • **Masa:** Sravana • **Paksha:** Shukla • **Tithi:** Sapthami 9.19 am • **Nakshatra:** Chittha 1.55 pm • Moon in Vrischika Rashi • **Rahukaala:** 07:30 am to 09:00 am • **Gulikakala:** 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • **Yamaganda:** 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER WATCH

MIN 21°C | MAX 28°C

FORECAST
Scattered tstorms late. Mostly cloudy

Sunrise	6.04 am
Sunset	6.48 pm
Moonrise	12.09 am
Moonset	12.00 pm

STATE OF EDUCATION: VIRUS HITS SECTOR HARD — STUDENTS UNABLE TO PAY FEES, TEACHERS IN DISTRESS

Cash drying up, teachers appeal to minister for help

PEARL MARIA D'SOUZA
@Bengaluru

"I am a Master of Computer Applications graduate, have built a school after much toiling, employed more women, educated hundreds, given refuge to women, and now I am made to seek refuge. Who should I beg to take care of my parents? You have given money to auto drivers, praised doctors, but those who educated them, the teachers, should be looked after first. We were living a life of self-respect, but now our lives our ruined..." this was the piteous voice message a school administrator sent to Education Minister S Suresh Kumar.

Another private school teacher sent a similar message. She said she has been taking care of her household of five with a monthly pay of ₹11,000, but since the lockdown, the school administration had reduced pay to ₹4,000.

> How is one to pay rent, arrange medicines for an aged parent, and take care of other monthly expenditure?
>
> Private school teacher

Ever since the minister's order to schools not to pressure parents into paying fees, the teacher said parents have not come forward to pay, and this has affected their salaries. Despite schools taking up online classes, children are not studying either, she added. Theirs is not an isolated struggle. Lakhs of private school teachers are in a similar crisis.

Former Minister for Primary and Secondary Education Basavaraj Horatti recently wrote to the government, drawing attention to the distress of teachers from private unaided schools. Citing the instance of a teacher in Yellapur allegedly jumping into a river and committing suicide, he said, "More such tragic incidents are likely to occur if the government does not reach out to teachers soon."

RTE funds not disbursed

Horatti, along with MLC Maritibbe Gowda and former MLC Puttanna, expressed displeasure over the education department's disbursal of RTE funds. They alleged that the department had failed to transfer funds to schools even 45 days after the revenue department had released the first instalment of ₹275 crore, for the year 2019-20.

In separate letters to Kumar, they attributed this failure to the attitude of the RTE division. They said the deputy directors for public information and block education officers remained helpless in dispensing money to schools. They also alleged that there were irregularities in the disbursal of RTE funds in 2018-19, and slammed the government for stating that private unaided schools running on government land obtained at subsidised rates did not qualify for RTE funds.

File picture of teachers protesting in Bengaluru

Students in a fix as colleges ask for fees

IFFATH FATHIMA @Bengaluru

STUDENTS of many private colleges, which include engineering and degree colleges, alleged that the colleges have started asking for fees for the new academic year and warned them that if they fail to do so, they would lose their attendance. Many students state that their parents have lost jobs in these corona times and are unable to pay the fees.

Over 800 students from different colleges have formed a WhatsApp group and said that if the colleges continue to insist on fees, they would stage a protest.

Speaking to TNIE, a second year student of Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) studying in a private college in Kumarswamy Layout said, "My mother lost her job due to Covid downsizing while my father is facing a huge pay cut. How can we pay the fees? The college authorities have not reduced the fees nor are they allowing us to pay in instalments. The fees is Rs 82,950 for third semester BBA. When we ask for time, they say that colleges will reopen in September first week, and if we don't pay by then, classes will start but we won't get attendance. We are not saying that we do not want to pay money, we just need some time. Government needs to look into our grievances."

A BCom student from a private college said, "I have been getting calls from the management asking to pay fees, failing which we can't attend classes in future. The fee structure includes library fees while we are not using the library as the college is closed."

A second year computer science student said, "Our college was supposed to conduct online classes, but they did not start. They gave us videos and asked us to take internal exams online. Without teaching us, how can they ask us to do the exam? And how can they collect fees? It is unfair."

WHEN THE CITY GOES SILENT...

Clockwise from top left: A flooded Kempegowda Bus Station wears a deserted look; a father and daughter enjoy a bicycle ride on a traffic-free MG Road; Airport Road is devoid of traffic; and friends get together on a terrace to fly kites during the Sunday lockdown in Bengaluru | PANDARINATH B, MEGHANA SASTRY

Senior citizens strive to save bird habitat

MEERA BHARDWAJ @ Bengaluru

THE pandemic has not deterred a group of senior citizens to continue their fight to save the city's only sanctuary for birds which is now seeing a power plant coming up near a lake there. This group of 75-80-year-olds have put in their savings to restore and maintain the Yelahanka-Puttenahalli Lake and also take the matter to courts. Overcoming the Covid-19 scare, they are taking care of the lake maintenance and doing the litigation work.

The matter is coming up for hearing in the National Green Tribunal. They are opposing the transfer of custody of the lake from the forest department to the BBMP as also the power plant being set up.

In their efforts, they have been supported by residents, students and young volunteers from the Yelahanka area.

Spread over an area of 13.77 hectares, the lake is home to 120 bird species including migratory and endangered like Northern Pintail and White Stork, etc. The bird conservation reserve was notified in 2015. Forming the Yelahanka-Puttenahalli Lake and Bird Conservation Trust, they prepared a DPR along with LDA.

The trust comprising Dr K S Sangunni, Krishna Dutta, Prof Santanu Das and eight others has been working on the lake's protection, restoration and rejuvenation. Experts like Dr S Subramanya, ornithologist, and Dr H N Chanakya, IISc, have provided help and guidance. When restoration was being done, a power plant just next to the lake was taken up, the trustees say.

The Trust has challenged the State government's order (December 11, 2019) of transferring the bird reserve to BBMP in the high court where the matter is pending. They add, "The construction of the 350 MW gas-based combined cycle power plant just 500 m from the reserve has wreaked havoc on the lake habitat and people in the surrounding areas. The environmental clearance for the project was given by the State Environmental Impact Assessment Authority on September 1, 2015. This is being challenged in NGT and the hearing is on August 9."

A Padmanabha, a trustee, says, "The heat, air, noise and light generated by the project has had a considerable effect on birds, especially their migration pattern. The high court dismissed our writ petition and upheld the environmental clearance given to the power plant. We filed an SLP in the Supreme Court which has remitted the matter to NGT. The SC has also set aside the observations of the HC on the merits of the case."

From left: Puttuswamy, Krishnappa, A Padmanabha, Dr Sangunni, Dr Chanakya, Krishna and two volunteers helped restore Puttenahalli lake (right) | EXPRESS

> The trustees appeal, "These extraordinary times tells us we have to take care of our natural habitat and it is only through collective action, we can build a better way of life. We appeal for funding and people can contact us : 94808 97490."

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

27th July: There's an extraordinary amount of hope around, in spite of everything. The end-result could take us anywhere, and the best advice is therefore to emphasise the virtues of self-discipline and self-control. Plan your day with care! That's advice we should all take, whatever our birth signs. No exceptions!

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
Today it's Uranus, that most distant and surprising of celestial bodies, which gives you the chance to skip the normal preliminaries in putting your ambitions into effect. Cash questions will preoccupy you later on, perhaps with unexpected results.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
It's fair to say that your planetary patterns are favourable, all the more so if your inclination is generally inspired, visionary even. The closer you come to practical responsibilities, the greater the need for additional care and caution.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
Partners can't read your mind, so tell them what you think. If your aims are professional, and if you're planning a spot of personal promotion you could do worse than set your sights on the next few days. You may just receive a windfall, even if only on a modest scale.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
The Moon is normally such a sympathetic planet, but today it leaves you in no doubt that it is other people who require your loving care and sympathy. Reach out and offer the hand of support to those in need. They will pay you back in their own way - when they can.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
There's no escape from busy planetary pictures and hence no way to avoid your responsibilities. The best course may be to get as much achieved as you possibly can, in order to give yourself more scope for relaxation tomorrow and the day after. Have a break. Put your feet up!

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
You may see creative self-expression as a voluntary activity, but the planets don't agree. Today, in so many little ways, you may be compelled to be an individual and be true to your own utterly unique talents. Employers please note! And family members please take care!

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
There seems little doubt that home and family affairs will dominate your thoughts and feelings today. Even if you are determined to give the highest priority to work, it will be deep and fundamental issues which demand your attention, including your domestic relationships.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
Some celestial indications suggest that you may be called away from home, possibly on account of work or a similar responsibility. In any event, the main goal is to communicate clearly and make yourself properly understood. Someone else may owe you an apology, but don't hold your breath!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
Business affairs will occupy your attention. Your financial stars are looking considerably less complex than this time last year, and today you may cut across a whole series of irrelevant hangovers like the proverbial hot knife through butter.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
The ball is in your court. Tackle private affairs and deal with professional activities only if you feel a deep personal motivation. Romantic encounters and sentimental journeys are desirable, if only because the results may be much more delightful than expected.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
Any feelings of uncertainty or confusion should be short-lived, and by late tomorrow you could be back in the driving seat. In the meantime, remember that you're now into a fantastically productive long-term cycle. The world will judge you by your deeds rather than your words.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
Sometimes you just have to pay more attention to your own needs. After a long period of social responsibility, you may begin to streamline your personal commitments. If you're typical of your sign, your inclination is to withdraw from a particular public arena.

THE PHANTOM

HI AND LOIS

BEETLE BAILEY

BLONDIE

SAY, DAG, HOW ABOUT KICKING IN A FEW DOLLARS FOR MY SON?
IS HE OKAY?
OH, HE'S DOING GREAT THESE DAYS
HE DOES LIKE EXPENSIVE VIDEO GAMES, THOUGH

LOCKHORNS

DENNIS THE MENACE

Test your number crunching skill with our unique puzzle

SUDOKU

		6						9
1			4	2	5		3	
2	3		9			8		
			6					
6			8	9	2			1
					1			
		1			4		9	2
	4		1	3	9			8
9						3		

MEDIUM

- Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.
- Each sudoku has a unique solution that can be reached logically without guessing.

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

5	6	7	1	3	9	8	4	2
1	3	2	4	5	8	6	7	9
4	8	9	7	2	6	3	5	1
2	1	8	3	6	4	5	9	7
3	9	5	8	7	1	2	6	4
7	4	6	5	9	2	1	3	8
6	7	4	2	8	5	9	1	3
8	5	1	9	4	3	7	2	6
9	2	3	6	1	7	4	8	5

JUMBLE — THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SEERU

DAAPN

HAWTTR

HOTSEO

FOR LEASE
It's a real bargain!
Not with that noise.
Are you kidding me?
THE HOUSE WAS AVAILABLE TO LEASE, BUT THE HIGHWAY NEXT TO IT WAS A ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: " ○○○○○ - ○○○○ "

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: EXUDE HIKER JOGGER BURLAP
Answer: When Jeanne Calment turned 122 in 1997, 121 was — HER OLD AGE

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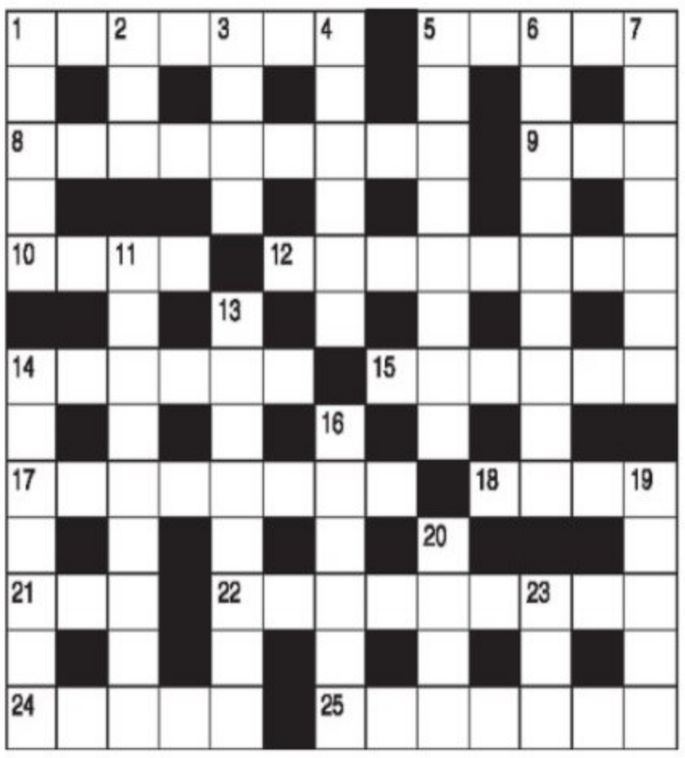
CROSS WORD



ACROSS

1 Makes up lies and goes onto something else (5,2)
5 Mohammedan lawyer in plain clothes (5)
8 Lively car Muriel ordered (9)
9 Creature having pointed small feet (3)
10 Any key but one (4)
12 It's not right having more surplus (4,4)
14 Opportunity a gambler may take (6)
15 A new bride's bits and pieces (6)
17 Pay no regard to a trade concession (8)
18 Arrange live coverage (4)
21 Does it come softly from the coop? (3)
22 He ends up in the relay race or tug-of-war (6,3)
24 The bilingual machine (5)
25 She gets the highest score (7)

DOWN

1 The French Scotsman is a poor specimen (5)
2 Some manner of music (3)
3 Squalid place where people live, fifty in all (4)
4 Fixed form of denial (6)
5 A train driver (8)
6 Give away lines? (4,5)
7 Limits in rents perhaps (7)
11 The conveyance of ecstasy? (9)
13 Touching display of regal appreciation (8)
14 If a man is willing, this may be added (7)
16 Criticises strikes (6)
19 Give Heather a ring - but mind your language (5)
20 Beginner's course (4)
23 Mother has love at heart for a bird (3)

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Hospital, 5 Hard and fast rules, 9 Sward, 10 Exhorts, 13 Echoed, 14 Sphere, 17 Horse soldier, 20 Radical, 21 Slump, 22 Yarn, 23 Crescent.

Down: 1 Hose, 2 Staunch, 3 Indifference, 4 Averse, 6 April, 7 Disaster, 8 Chiropodists, 12 Lethargy, 15 Execute, 16 Roller, 18 Rider, 19 Spot.

Soladevanahalli police on Sunday shot at two history-sheeters who attacked a businessman, Rajashekar, in Jalahalli. Bharath and Arun attacked two cops with knives, injuring them, before they were shot. Rajashekar's co-brother Srinivas allegedly hired Bharath to kill Rajashekar and his wife on payment of Rs 10 lakh.

UN REPORT

Karnataka keeping tabs on Al Hind

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

KARNATAKA Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Sunday said that the State government has taken cognisance of the United Nations report on terrorism, and the presence of the Al Hind outfit in the region.

Bommai told TNIE, ''The government has taken serious note of the report. Based on operations in the past couple of years, an Al Hind module was busted in January 2020, while a Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) module was busted in 2018-19. The NIA handled both cases, in which about 50 people were arrested."

The UN report also analyses operations of terror modules operating in South India, including Karnataka.

Karnataka is in touch with central agencies and neighbouring states, and is keeping vigil on suspects and their sympathisers, Bommai said. "Terror modules keep changing identities and their sympathisers too change. Yet, in spite of this challenge, Karnataka has been able to identify and bust these new entities continuously. The government is working on it as there are several cases which point to links across borders. More steps are being considered to strengthen internal security mechanism and communication system with other states and central agencies," Bommai said.

Cong to protest outside Raj Bhavan today to 'save democracy'

They are accusing the BJP of toppling state governments, misusing the Governor's office

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

IN the backdrop of an alleged conspiracy to topple the Ashok Gehlot government in Rajasthan, the Congress on Sunday upped its ante and held a nationwide digital campaign titled 'SpeakUpForDemocracy'. The campaign is in protest against BJP's alleged attempts to topple its state governments 'misusing the high constitutional office of the Governor'.

The party has accused the BJP of killing democracy in broad daylight in Madhya Pradesh and now in Rajasthan, even as the whole country is in the middle of a coronavirus crisis. On Friday, Rajasthan Congress MLAs held a five-hour dharna on the lawns of the Raj Bhavan pressing for an Assembly session.

The social media campaign will be followed by protests outside Raj Bhavans across the country on Monday. In Karnataka, the Raj Bhavan protest comes on a day when Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa will release a book listing his government's achievements in the last one year. The protest at 2pm will be led by State party chief D K Shivakumar.

Several party leaders posted videos and tweeted as part of the digital campaign on Sunday. Senior leaders from Karnataka like Rajya Sabha MP Mallikarjun Kharge, Shivakumar and Leader of Opposition Siddaramaiah shared videos and tweets condemning the BJP and appealing to citizens to 'Save Democracy'.

"The world is battling a pandemic but in India, we are fighting two battles together. One against Covid-19 and another

against the anti-democratic acts of the BJP. Ever since they came to power in 2014, they are trying to topple every stable non-BJP government using their money, muscle and institutional powers. Their attempts to murder democracy don't stop even during a pandemic," said Siddaramaiah in a video message as part of the campaign.

On Monday, Siddaramaiah is expected to join Shivakumar in the protest.

"People of Karnataka have been observing the theatrics of BJP for quite some time now. People have seen everything that has happened in the last one year from Madhya Pradesh, in Karnataka to the midnight drama in Maharashtra. The same story in Rajasthan now. The BJP is destroying all Constitutional, Democratic institutions. We have to save them," said Shivakumar in his video message.

Kharge said in a series of tweets, "In the last six years, BJP has undermined every law, institution & the Constitution itself to ensure they destabilize Congress Govts across states. They have legalized horse trading & made it the new normal to come to power at any cost. (sic)"

STRAWS IN THE WIND

Who's behind the big C mess?

Behind the big numbers lies a petty fight. As Karnataka races ahead, totting up the Covid numbers with ease, almost in a neck-and-neck race with Delhi to jump to Number 3 from Number 4, analysts are wondering what went wrong. Karnataka is recording a daily caseload of over 5,000 cases, compared to Delhi's 1,000-plus. It's been an intense struggle to contain the numbers, especially in critical areas in Bengaluru, and yet, the numbers are galloping. They have now arrived at a conclusion: that the main reason for the spike in numbers was the shadowboxing and power row between ministers R Ashoka, CN Ashwath Narayan and K Sudhakar. If they had collectively fought Covid the way they battled each other, the virus would have probably fled Karnataka by now.

Going on, and on, and on

Looks like Congress leaders are missing their favourite job: giving speeches. A joint press conference by CLP leader Siddaramaiah and KPCC president DK Shivakumar turned into a talkathon, though the traditional press meet generally lasts about 20 minutes. They together spoke for about an hour and a half, forgetting that their goal was to expose the 'corruption' in the Covid equipment purchase. As they delivered their bhashans, outdoing each other, it was the hapless journalists who had to sit through them. Did we hear someone say that the enemy of the Congress is the Congress?

Govt committed to soldiers' welfare, says CM on Kargil anniversary

Police and military personnel pay tribute to martyred soldiers on Kargil Diwas in Bengaluru on Sunday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

DESCRIBING Kargil Vijay Diwas as a symbol of India's valour and sacrifices, Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa on Sunday said that his government is committed to the welfare of soldiers.

Paying tribute to the martyrs of Kargil war on its 21st anniversary, Yediyurappa said his government always stood by the soldiers and families of those who laid down their lives to protect the borders of the country.

"The government is always committed to the welfare of soldiers. Karnataka has formed a separate department for the welfare of soldiers and their families," he said.

He was addressing soldiers and their families at the National Military Memorial Park at an event organised by the Sainik Welfare and Resettlement Department, which comes under the state Home Department,

Yediyurappa said that Karnataka government had given due compensation to the families of the Kargil martyrs and the soldiers who were injured.

"The sacrifices of our soldiers will remain etched in our memories forever. The tale of the 527 soldiers, who sacrificed their lives to save our country, is a constant source of inspiration for our youth," he said.

The Chief Minister also noted Karnataka's contributions to the Indian Army and said the state had given two Generals, one Field Marshal, many army officers and innumerable soldiers to protect the country's borders.

The government is always committed to the welfare of soldiers. Karnataka has formed a separate department for the welfare of soldiers and their families

BS Yediyurappa, Chief Minister

CATCHING THE BUG

MIN ANAND SINGH TESTS COVID +VE

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Ballari

FOREST Minister Anand Singh who tested positive for Covid-19 on Saturday has been home quarantined in Hosapete.

He is the second cabinet minister to get infected with coronavirus after Tourism and Kannada and Culture Minister C T Ravi. Singh is asymptomatic and is under treatment at his residence in Hosapete.

Last week, Singh's car driver had tested positive and after which doctors had suggested Singh to undergo a Covid-19 test. On Saturday, he tested positive after he underwent a Rapid Antigen Test.

Singh is one of several politicians to have testes positive for Covid-19. They include Hoovina Hadagali MLA P T Parameshwar Naik. Both these leaders have attended several programmes in the recent past. The administration is now trying to trace those came in contact with Singh in the last few days.

"We have suggested that the minister take rest at least for a week and maintain social distancing. For the last 10 days, he was busy holding meetings in Ballari and visiting several places.

He has also interacted with several party workers and his followers. We have asked people to get tested if they had come in contact with Singh in the last few days," said a senior doctor from Ballari.

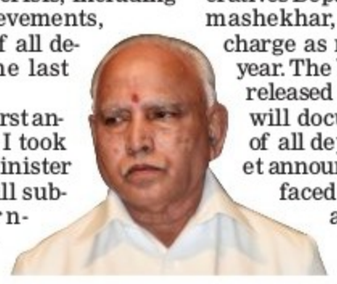
On Sunday, Ballari reported the highest single day spike of 597 Covid-19 cases. The district has so far reported 4,046 positive cases, including 2,349 active cases.

Many Congress leaders tested positive after D K Shivakumar's Pratigna Divas event.

Will submit work report to people, says Yediyurappa

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

RIGHT from floods in August last year to the current pandemic, the docu-film and the book will capture the administrative decisions Yediyurappa's government had to take at times of crisis, including initiatives, achievements, success stories of all departments in the last one year.



"To mark the first anniversary since I took oath as Chief Minister of the State, I will submit my government's work report to the people of the State through a simple online event at 11 am on Monday, July 27. The event will be telecast live," the CM tweeted on Sunday.

On Sunday, the CM received a booklet put together by the Cooperatives Department under S T Somashekhar, ever since he took charge as minister earlier this year. The book, scheduled to be released on Monday, however, will document achievements of all departments, key budget announcements, challenges faced due to Covid-19 and assistance and aid provided by the government.

EXPRESS READ

Sending rakhis just got safer through India Post

Bengaluru: In a bid to ensure a safe Raksha Bandhan for long-distance siblings amid the Covid-19 pandemic, the Karnataka Circle of India Post launched the 'Rakhi Post' service wherein a state resident can select different types of rakhis online and send them to their brothers residing in any part the country. As the nation celebrates the festival on August 3, in a first, the Karnataka Circle introduced the online sale of rakhi with Chief Postmaster General Sharada Sampath launching the facility at the General Post Office on Saturday. A total of 5,000 rakhis are stocked at the Sorting Hub of the Bengaluru GPO. Rakhis can be selected and sent on https://karnatakapost.gov.in/rakhipost and bookings are open till midnight of July 31. **ENS**

CRIME PATROL

4 held for robbing man of Rs 45.5 lakh

Bengaluru: The Pulakeshi Nagar police arrested four people for allegedly robbing a distributor of Rs 45.5 lakh on June 11. Police said an associate of the victim masterminded the robbery. The victim, Rakesh Pokerna, a distributor with ITC, was driving his car with the day's collection of Rs 45.5 lakh. On Pottery Road, three of the accused rammed his car with their bikes, threatened him at knifepoint and robbed him. "Initially, we found no clues. When we summoned Mohammed Ishaq (25), a salesman who worked for Pokerna, for enquiry, he went into hiding. We gathered information about him and his contacts, and established his connection with those who robbed Pokerna," an official said. "We then arrested Mohammed Parvez, a Hegdenagar resident, and Mohammed Adnan and Afnan Pasha, all 19. They said they robbed Pokerna and led us to Ishaq," the police said. They shared the money. Ishaq hid his share in a car tyre at his sister's house in Bethamangala, while the others kept it at their friend's house. Police recovered Rs 31.86 lakh cash and mobile phones bought with the money. **ENS**

15 arrested for substance abuse

Police arrested three drug peddlers, including a Nigerian national and 12 youths for narcotics abuse. They seized5 grams of MDMA from Chukwuvmeka Ezeobi, 600gram marijuana from Anand, and 1kg marijuana from Syed Nazim. Indiranagar and Halasur police booked three people each, while Bharatinagar and Shivajinagar police booked two each. **ENS**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public that the undersigned has lost his original sale deed executed by Sri.Murugan dated 11.08.2004 in the name of Sri. T. Ramesh , in respect of old Khata No.5/2, Present Khata No. 148/5,169/5, Site No. 18, in all measuring 1200 Square Feet and registered as document no.1261/2004-05, of Book-I, CD.No.BASD85 , in the office of the Sub-registrar Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore.

My client is the Present owner with respect to the below property

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Residential site bearing old Khata no.5/2, new khata no. 148/5, 169/5 Site no-18, situated at Varthur Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, measuring East to West-On the Northern side-30.Ft and and North to South-40 Ft, in all measuring 1200 Sq Ft. And bounded on- **East by:** Road, **West by:** Site No.19, **North by:** Ste No 20, **South by:** Property belongs to T.Ramesh.

Whoever finds it is hereby requested to return the same to the undersigned person within 7 days, office at below mentioned address within 7 days from the date of this publication and any objections or claims received thereafter shall not be binding on our clients and it will be deemed to be in unauthorized and illegal possession of it and shall be liable for any misuse of the same.

Ashwath Bennur, Advocate
#213/A, 1st floor, 10th main,
56th cross, 4th Block, Rajajinagar,
Bangalore -560010
Contact No : 9901944099
e-mail: ashwath.bb@gmail.com

NATIONAL HIGHWAYS & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
Corporate Office: 3rd Floor, PTI Building, 4 Parliament Street, New Delhi – 110001

File No. NHIDCL/2(6)/Rectt./ED/2020/HR

National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited has been set up by the Government of India as a Corporation under the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways to fast pace construction / up-gradation / widening of National Highways in the North-Eastern Region and areas that share International boundaries with neighbouring countries.

Applications are invited from dynamic, effective and experienced eligible Officers working in Central Government Ministries / Departments, Autonomous Bodies, Public Sector Undertakings, State Government Departments and State Government Public Undertakings on Transfer on Deputation basis on the Terms & Conditions indicated below:-

Sl. No.	Name of the Post and likely Vacancy	No. of Vacancy	Pay matrix Level in CDA pattern
1.	Assistant Director (Official Language) (for NHIDCL HQrs, New Delhi)	01	Pay Matrix Level-10 of 7th CPC [Pre-revised PB- 3 of Rs. 15600-39000/- plus Grade Pay of Rs. 5400/-]
2.	Private Secretary (for NHIDCL HQrs, New Delhi)	**	Pay Matrix Level-9 of 7th CPC [Pre-revised PB- 2 of Rs. 9300-34800 /- plus Grade Pay of Rs. 5,400/-]

**The number of vacancy in the Posts may vary, depending upon the requirement. Further, NHIDCL reserves the right to prepare a Panel of selected Candidates for filling up the indicated and future vacancies that may arise in NHIDCL.

Last date for submission of Application: 17.08.2020-18:00 hrs.
For detailed Terms and Conditions please visit- www.nhidcl.com.

NOTE 1: Retired Officer (s) who have served in the Government and have held equivalent posts satisfying the prescribed eligibility criteria, may also apply for the posts on Contract basis in the prescribed proforma along with copy of Pension Payment Order.

NOTE 2: Any change or amendment to this Vacancy Circular will be posted on the NHIDCL Website only.

NOTE 3: Incomplete applications or those received after the prescribed date shall be summarily rejected.

BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE, BUILDING THE NATION

The Grain Merchants' Co-Operative Bank Limited
H.O, No.2, Pampamahakavi Road, Chamarajpet, Bengaluru - 560 018.

PUBLIC AUCTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Sri Ramesh Babu O.N, S/o Sri Narasimha Setty O.V., R/a 11, 3rd Floor, Sri Lakshminrayana Mansion, Sri Ram Mandir Road, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru-560004, The debt due to Bank as on **21.07.2020** of **Rs.25,24,183/-** + Interest & miscellaneous expenses. Auction sale under the securitization and reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforce of Security Interest Act 2002 Section 13(4) of the Immovable properties mortgaged to The Grain Merchants' Co-Operative Bank Ltd., is brought to Sale under **"AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION"on 27.08.2020, Thursday at 11.00 am.**

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Immovable Property bearing No.595, Avenue Road, Chickpet, Ward No.28, Bangalore, measuring East to West: 56'6" and North to South: 10'6", in all totally measuring 593.25 Sq.Ft., with constructed of Basement, Ground & Three Upper Floors and bounded on the East by: Avenue Road, West by: Conservancy Lane, North by: Property of O.V.Sathyanarayana Setty & South by: Property of P.C.Setty.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

(1) The public auction will be conducted in the premises of the Grain Merchants' Co-Operative Bank Ltd., Head Office No.2, Pampamahakavi Road, Chamarajpet, Bengaluru-560 018.

(2) For participation in the auction the intending bidders have to deposit an amount equivalent to 10% of the Reserve price of the property i.e., Rs.13,33,469/- being cautioned deposit. The cautioned deposit shall be forfeited by the bank without any prior notice, if the successful bidder fails to adhere to the terms of sale, time and commits default in any manner.

(3) The successful bidder should deposit 25% of the bid amount on the same day at the time of sale in cash/DD to the GMCB Ltd. and the balance within 15 days from the date of sale.

(4) The successful bidders shall bear all expenses like stamp duty, Registration fee etc., for getting the sale certificate Registered in his/her favour.

(5) The authorized officer shall have powers to accept or reject bids or postpone/cancel the auction without assigning any reasons thereof.

(6) For inspection of the property and other particulars, the intending bidder may contact the undersigned at the GMCB Ltd., or through Telephone, they are at liberty to make their own assessment/enquiry about the property. Balance of tax and others charges has to be bourned by purchaser.

Sd/-
Authorised Officer,
The Grain Merchants' Co Operative Bank Ltd.,
26677552, 26506279

Place: Bangalore
Date: 22.07.2020

CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE
CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **RATNAMMA K C**, spouse of C S NAIR resident of No. 2154, Abbegere Main Road, Munikrishnappa Compound, Kammagondanahalli, Near Railway Bridge, Jalahalli West, Bangalore – 560015, have changed my name from **RATNAMMA K C** to **RATHNAMMA K C**, vide Affidavit Dated 14-07-2020, sworn before Addl. District Judge, Bangalore District, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, BANGALORE VENKOBRAO **MADHUKAR** s/o Manaji Rao Saraswathi Bai Venkob Rao, resident of No. 27, 1st Main Road, AECS Layout, RMV 2nd Stage, Ashwathnagar, Bangalore North, Bangalore-560094, Karnataka, India, state that my names, **BANGALORE VENKOBRAO MADHUKAR JADAV** and **B.V. MADHUKAR** are the variations of **BANGALORE VENKOBRAO MADHUKAR** (Final Name) sworn vide affidavit 224 dated 25-07-2020 before Notary Peruvazhuthi, Bangalore.

Your Guide to Spicy living
INDULGE Every Friday with THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES, RAICHUR
Stores Purchase Officer, UAS, Raichur - 584104,
E-mail: spo@uasraichur.edu.in Ph: 08532 220165

E-Tender Notification No. SPO/UASR/E-Proc-02/2020-21, Dt: 22-07-2020

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The University of Agricultural Sciences, Raichur is inviting e-tender for **Purchase of Scientific Equipements & other materials.** The interested suppliers are requested to participate through online only. The website address is www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in **(Indent number:- UAS/2020-21/IND3396 to 3399 & 3401 to 3407.** The last date for submission of filled in Tender Document is 09-08-2020.

Sd/- **Stores Purchase Officer**
UAS, Raichur.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY DEPARTMENT
571, Anna Salai, Nandanam P.O. Chennai - 600 035

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders are invited under **" Two Cover System"** for insuring Milch Cows, Goats / Sheep from insurance Companies.

Milch Cows	**12,000** nos.
Goats / Sheep	**6,00,000** nos.

Individual tender document with full details can be downloaded in free of cost from **www.tenders.tn.gov.in** up to **26.08.2020, 5.00 p.m**. Last date for submission of tenders: **27.08.2020 at 11.00 a.m.** Corrigendum / Addendum to this publication if any would appear only on the above website.

DIPR/2783/TENDER/2020

Director of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services

TRACKING COVID-19

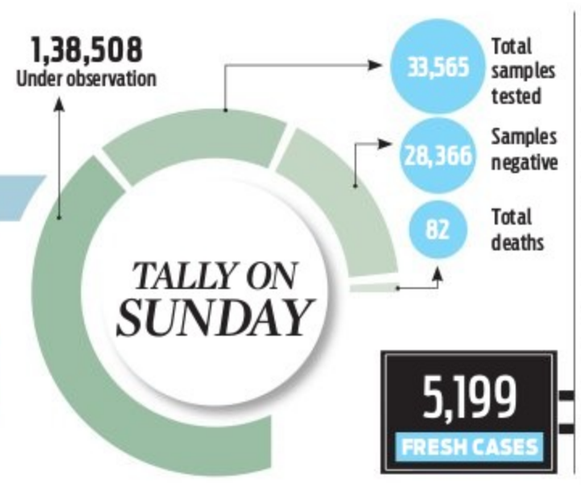
A hospital in Hubballi has started plasma therapy to treat moderate and severe Covid-19 patients, becoming the first private institution to do so in North Karnataka Region

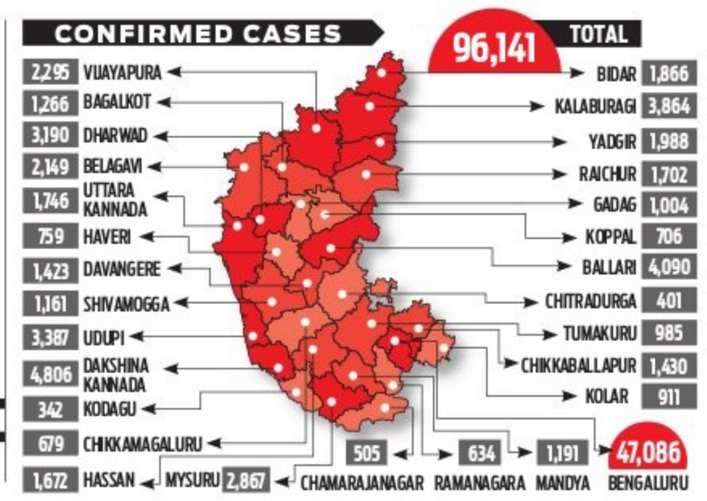
2,088 NEW RECOVERIES

35,838 TOTAL RECOVERED

HELPLINES
080-46848600
080-66692000

104 Arogya Sahayavani will function too





FROM SUCCESS TO SLUMP, STATE ON RECOVERY PATH

■ TOTAL ■ ACTIVE CASES ■ DEATHS

B'LURU URBAN

WORRISOME SPREAD

Cases in the district were under control with about 358 cases as of May 31. But the situation went out of hand with the unlock phase beginning on June 8. Inter-state returnees, especially from Maharashtra, contributed to the spike.

43,503 31,882 862

B'LURU RURAL

DEATHS UNDER CONTROL

On April 4, Bengaluru Rural recorded its first positive case and from then to now, cases have grown to 1,420. The district has done fairly well with only nine deaths so far. But it lags in recovery rate at only 17.4%.

1,420 1164 9

KALABURAGI

PVT HOSPITALS AN ISSUE

High number of Covid cases and private hospitals not admitting patients are a big problem here. The administration on July 25 requested the staff at private and government hospitals to cooperate or face action.

3,712 1,588 58

MYSURU

MORTALITY A WORRY

From being hailed for its efforts in managing Covid, Mysuru's turnaround was quick and alarming, especially with a dangerous spike in mortalities, second only to Bengaluru with 107 deaths. Of them, 66 are in the last 10 days alone.

2,637 1,722 107

DAKSHINA KANNADA

NRIs DROVE SPREAD

Fear of Covid patients from Kerala crossing over to the district for treatment forced the government to seal the borders. But the return of a large number of NRIs and those from Maharashtra led to a big spike in cases.

4,607 2,597 97

BELAGAVI

HIT BY MIGRANT INFLUX

The district, once marked a 'red zone', was going to be declared Covid-free as around 300 patients had recovered and only 20 cases remained till June-end. But with people returning from Bengaluru and Mumbai, there was a spike.

1,986 1,477 40

A marginal improvement in reporting of positive cases has been seen in the last few days | EXPRESS

85,870 Transmission of cases

38,915 Under investigation

27,399 With travel history (domestic)

721 With travel history (international)

8,862 ILI (under investigation)

1,831 SARI (under investigation)

8,142 From contact

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

FROM the initial high point of managing the dreaded pandemic, Karnataka has considerably slipped, allowing the Covid-19 tally to rise to 96,141 as on Sunday — but some improvement is noticeable over the last few days.

To assess how the state slipped in its management from its initial successes (if one may call it that), here is a lay-down: The first Covid-19 case in Karnataka was reported on March 8. Since then, till Saturday, 96,141 cases have been reported — in just 140 days!

Roping in private medical colleges and hospitals, and increasing the tests per day contributed to pushing up the tally significantly. But the lifting of the lockdown restrictions in the first week of May, and the unimpressive public reaction to it, saw a big jump in numbers, forcing the government to impose another lockdown, this time for a week.

With the state increasing the number of Covid tests, with daily tests rising to 21,509 RT-PCR and other tests and 11,256 recently-added Rapid Antigen Detection Tests — the total coming to 11,43,262 — the number of patients testing positive, too, has increased, and the total active cases have stood at 55,388.

However, lately, whether one may call it a direct impact of stricter measures or not, a marginal improvement is noticeable. Though the positivity rate has been steadily rising from 3.32 per cent on July 5 to 7.95 per cent on July 25, the recovery rate too has shown improvement. From July 21, the recovery rate has been looking up after steadily slumping since July 5, from 41.94 per cent to 35.29 per cent on July 20. But on July 21, it rose slightly to 35.82 per cent, and since then, has been steadily rising. On July 22, it recorded 35.91 per cent and has steadily gone up to 37.11 per cent on July 25.

Another heartening sign is the falling mortality rate. Though it was around 1.80-1.90 percent in the first week of July, it worsened, increasing to 2.08 per cent on July 20, improving to 2 per cent two days later, and then wavering between 1.99 and 2 per cent for a couple of days to improve to 1.97 per cent on July 25.

CHIKKABALLAPUR

CASES LINKED TO B'LURU

This district has seen positive cases since the beginning with people travelling interstate and intrastate for business. DC R Latha says most positives have a link to Bengaluru.

1,349 772 28

KOLAR

TN ROOTS FOR A SPIKE

The district bordering Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh was one of the few districts without a single case initially. But Koyembedu cluster stretched till Kolar leading to the spike.

862 492 20

TUMAKURU

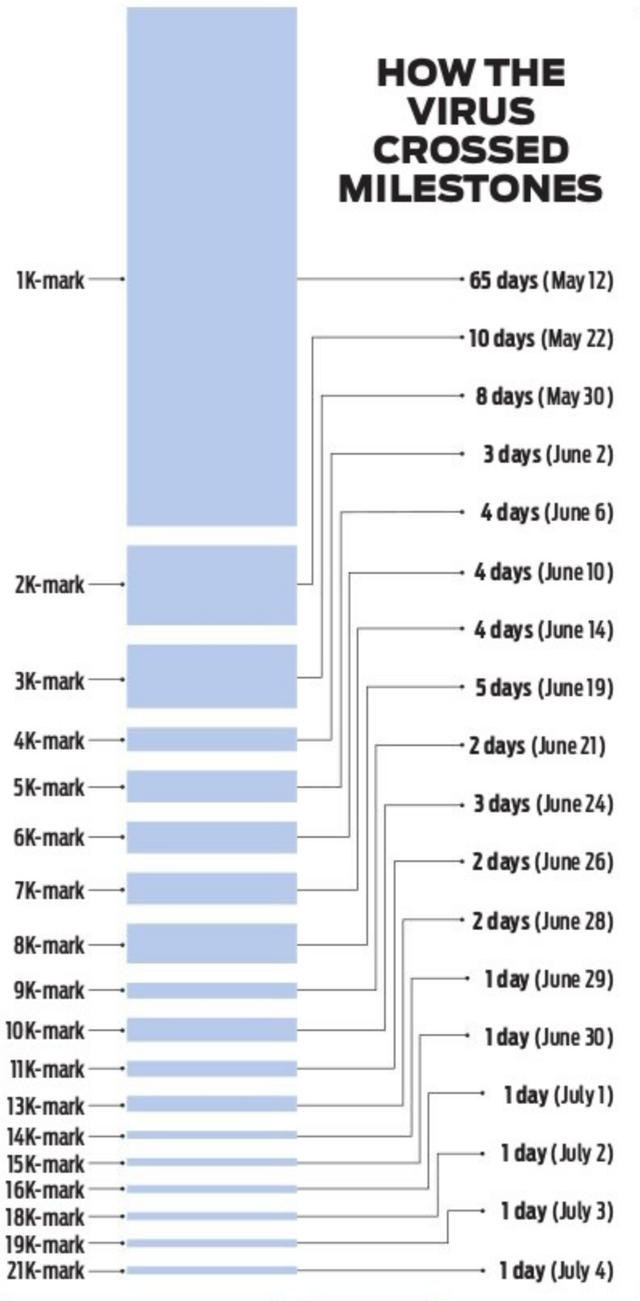
B'LURU TO BLAME

Tumakuru has seen the spike since July 10 when 30 of 100 policemen who returned from Bengaluru tested positive. An estimated 40 percent of the cases have a travel history to Bengaluru, which is 70km away.

939 36

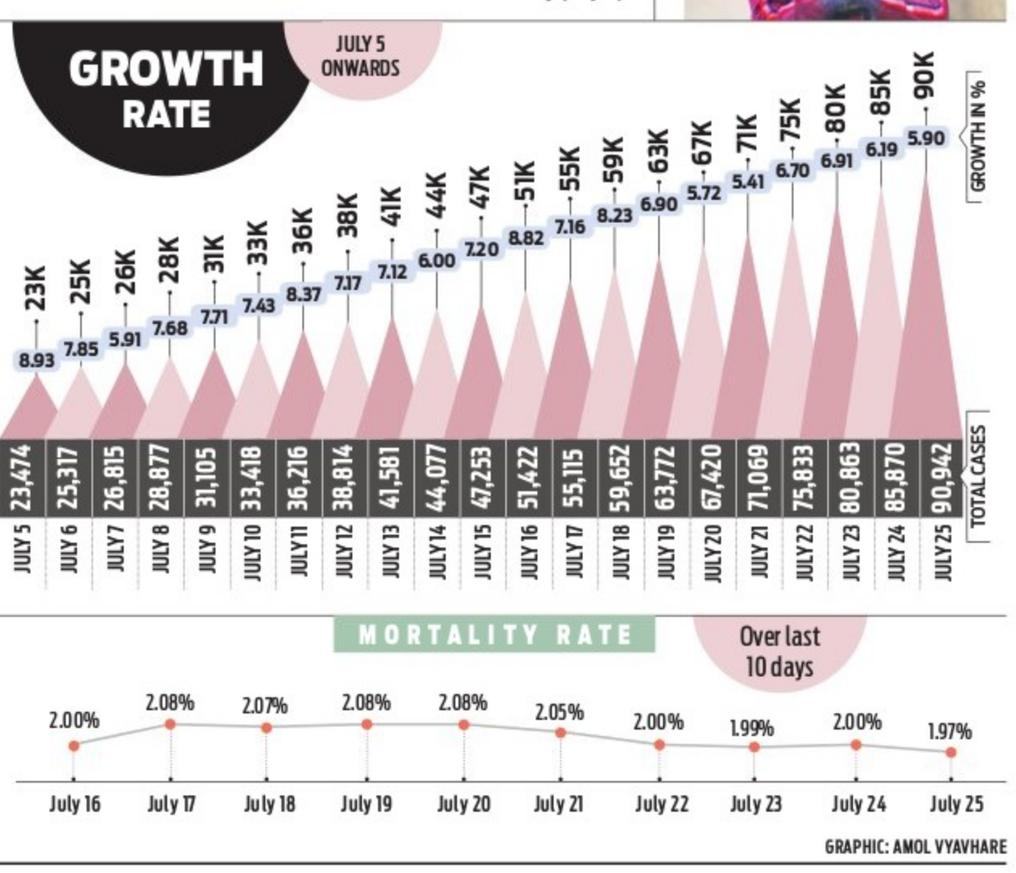
SPEED AND RISE OF COVID CASES IN THE STATE

The first Covid-19 case in Karnataka was reported on March 8, 2020. Till July 25, a total of 90,942 cases have been reported. A marked speeding up and increase in the number of cases has been noticed in the state as each 1,000-mark is crossed, and recent galloping with the addition of over 5,000 cases each day



RECOVERY RATE

Date		Discharges
July 5	41.94%	603
July 6	41.58%	680
July 7	41.38%	571
July 8	41.12%	778
July 9	41.25%	957
July 10	41.40 %	1,003
July 11	40.63%	880
July 12	39.69%	693
July 13	39.07%	839
July 14	39.45%	1,142
July 15	39.07%	1,076
July 16	38.36%	1,263
July 17	37.66%	1,028
July 18	36.50%	1,018
July 19	36.16%	1,290
July 20	35.29%	730
July 21	35.82%	1,664
July 22	35.91%	1,780
July 23	36.24%	2,071
July 24	36.50%	2,037
July 25	37.11%	2,403



GRAPHIC: AMOL VYAVHARE

RTI website down since a month, citizens, activists say it's deliberate

RANJANI MADHAVAN @Bengaluru

AT a time when citizens are keen to get more information from the state government on its handling of Covid-19, a key information source, the Right to Information (RTI) website, is not functioning. The website, RTIonline.karnataka.gov.in, is down since the last week of June, and activists are at a loss.

"On the website, we can file RTI applications, check their status and file first appeals. It is best to have online platforms in these Covid times to prevent physical contact," said Ajay Merchant, an RTI activist.

The website was functioning in mid-June, but the payment gateway was not, rendering it useless. "This amounts to lack of transparency and accountability and will give room for unchecked corruption. These are indirect, backdoor strategies to obstruct RTI in Karnataka. How can people from other districts, towns and villages come to Bengaluru to file RTIs physically," Merchant asked.

Citizens and RTI activists mostly do not receive acknowledgements of applications.

Umapathy S, an advocate and RTI activist, said that the website has not been working properly since its launch, unlike the central government website that works smoothly. "The website has not been planned well. This is to avoid information and transparency, as RTI applications would force them to give details," she said. "Only 10 percent of the departments were available. For instance, BBMP, BDA and KIADB are not accessible," he added.

Vipin Singh, CEO, Centre for e-Governance, which is responsible for the website, was not reachable.

A source in the Karnataka Information Commission said, "We have informed the e-governance department about the technical issues. We don't know whether they are doing it intentionally. They are aware of the issue but are not rectifying it. It is a bureaucratic mindset."

SUPERSPREADER INFECTS 36 RAILWAY COPS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

IN just 48 hours, 36 policemen of the Railway Protection Force (RPF) and Railway Special Protection Force, posted at the Krantivira Sangolli Rayanna station, have tested positive for Covid, setting off alarm bells in the forces on Sunday.

"The RPF and RSPF cops have caught it from a passenger, who turned out to be a superspreader and has infected 28 others. Since the cops, drawn from different states, are provided accommodation at the RPF Barracks (near KSR station), it has spread fast among them," said a highly-placed source in the Railways.

All the 36 cops are asymptomatic and have been admitted to the Covid Care Centre at the Railway Hospital in Bengaluru. "The barracks has been sealed and sanitised now. It will open after three days," the source added. In all, 45 contacts have been traced so far, said another source.

RPF officers see off passengers on a special train at KSR Railway Station

Meanwhile, a retired railway employee of Hubballi Railway Division died of Covid at the Central Hospital on Saturday.

The fresh cases have created an apprehension among the forces, particularly since the first Shramik Special restarted after a break, and a large number of RPF men are posted on each such special train. A train carrying 1,540 passengers left from Bengaluru to Guwahati on Saturday evening.

However, the Government Railway Police in Bengaluru seem better placed now. "Twelve police personnel deployed at KSR station tested positive 20 days ago. Nine of them have recovered," said a top cop.

Divisional Railway Manager (Bengaluru) Ashok Kumar Verma tweeted on Saturday night that since he and his driver were primary contacts of his RPF security staffer, they underwent Covid tests, which returned negative.

State inches close to 1 lakh positive cases

The coronavirus continues to spread at an alarming pace across the state, with the number of positive cases inching closer to the one lakh-mark. On Sunday, the state registered the highest number of cases for a single day at 5,199 positives, taking the tally to 96,141. Bengaluru Urban, yet again, had the highest numbers in the state with 1,950 cases. Of the 82 Covid fatalities recorded on Sunday, Bengaluru accounted for 29. The toll now stands at 1,878. Meanwhile, the Health Department bulletin continued to omit crucial information on patient contact and travel history, gender, age, district and where they are isolated. On a positive note, 2,088 people were discharged on Sunday. ENS

A wedding at Nandikotkur in Andhra Pradesh was cancelled just a day before the ceremony after the bride tested positive for coronavirus. The wedding was scheduled to take place on Sunday. Both the bride and the groom are residents of Nandikotkur

LDF on edge as NIA set to grill Sivasankar today

So far, investigating agencies have not taken party's name in gold smuggling case

DHINESH KALLUNGAL @T'Puram

AS the National Investigation Agency (NIA) is set to grill former IT secretary M Sivasankar in Kochi on Monday in the gold smuggling case, the ruling front is in a precarious political position. If the NIA arrests or arraigns him in the case, the Left Democratic Front (LDF) will have to fight it out to save its skin.

The NIA has summoned Sivasankar to its Kochi office as it wants to get more details from him. He has been maintaining that he was not aware of the links Swapna Suresh, Sandeep Nair and Sarith P S had with gold smuggling and their underhand deals.

But it's difficult to believe that he was fully ignorant about the shady deals of the accused, who had been making use of his apartment and influence for their illegal activity as he was also the secretary of the chief minister. The CPM has been trying to distance itself from him ever since his name cropped up in connection with the case.

A senior party leader told TNIE that the party has made it clear that if someone has erred in their professional and personal life, the person will have to pay the price. "If the Opposition tries to capitalise on the issue beyond a particular point, the party knows well to deal with it," he said. Sivasankar had been close to the chief minister, but he had also been close to the previous government. It is expected that the party would highlight his previous dealings, especially the long-term power purchase agreements signed with three companies without the mandatory Kerala State Electricity Regulatory Commission approval in 2015 when he was at the helm of KSEB.

The postponement of the assembly session and LDF meeting scheduled on Monday and Tuesday, respectively, has a direct bearing on this case. However, party sources clarified that the investigating agencies have so far not politically used the case to tarnish the image of the state government.

Crime Branch preparing to record Swapna's arrest

The Crime Branch is preparing to record the arrest of gold smuggling accused Swapna Suresh, the former executive secretary at the UAE Consulate in Thiruvananthapuram, in a forgery case. Sources said the arrest will be recorded soon and she will be taken into custody for questioning, if required. Swapna is the second accused in the forgery case which CB had probed as per a High Court directive.

COVID CARE GOING UP IN AIR

A woman sells balloons at Eluru Road in Vijayawada on Sunday. As the Covid-19 toll crossed the 1,000-mark in Andhra Pradesh with 56 more persons succumbing to the virus, people continue to step out without taking necessary precautions | P RAVINDRA BABU

BJP wants Arundhati Roy's article removed from varsity syllabus

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @T'Puram

BOOKER prize winner and social activist Arundhati Roy's article 'Come September', included in the syllabus of BA English third semester under Calicut University, kicked up a row after BJP state president K Surendran termed it as "anti-national". Surendran on Sunday said in a statement that sedition charges should be slapped on those who included it in the syllabus.

"The article which says "India is doing terrorism in Kashmir" should be withdrawn immediately and a comprehensive probe should be initiated by the state government. The article justifies suicide bombers and killings due to bomb explosions which took place in various parts of the country. The article, which states that the Indian government is eliminating the minority communities from the country, is also questioning democracy," he said.

He also questioned the credibility of the State Higher Education Department in including this chapter in the syllabus, which also criticises nuclear tests and construction of big dams in the country. "Is the education department accepting bribes from anyone?" he asked.

SONU SOOD REACTS TO FARMER'S PLIGHT

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Tirupati

MOVED by the plight of a farmer from KV Palli Mandal of Chittoor district, who had his agriculture land ploughed by two daughters due to poverty, actor and producer Sonu Sood has come forward to support the family by providing them with a tractor. The actor personally called the farmer, Nageshwar Rao, and had a brief conversation with him and enquired about his well-being.

After speaking with the farmer, he tweeted again saying, "This family doesn't deserve a pair of ox. They deserve a tractor. So sending you one. By evening a tractor will be ploughing your fields." When contacted by TNIE, Rao said Sonu Sood called him over phone. "Sonu Sood contacted me in the morning. He asked about how and my family members are. He also asked about my daughters and what they are studying," Nageswara said, adding that the actor was speaking in Hindi.

No pension for freedom fighters for last 3 months

KARTHIK K K @ Mysuru

AT a time when the country is gearing up to celebrate the 74th Independence Day, freedom fighters in the state are left high and dry because of delay in disbursal of their pension (honorarium).

According to several freedom fighters in the city, they have not received their pension of Rs 10,000 for the last three months. They said the delay amid the Covid pandemic has come as a double whammy to them and their dependents. Many of the freedom fighters are dependent on the pension for their medical needs, so the delay has severely affected them.

Mysuru District and City Freedom Fighters Association president Dr M G Krishnamurthy said though they had met the authorities to seek disbursal of pension, the officials gave the coronavirus duties as an excuse for not processing the pension.

"Earlier, pension was credited directly to our account from the treasury department and it was implemented by the Department of Personnel and Administrative Services (DPAR). But several months ago, a decision was taken to give the responsibility to the respective Deputy Commissioner's office, following which we were told that the pension will now be directly credited to accounts. But we have not received the pension from May and when we question the officials, they give Covid duty as an excuse, or any technical issue," said Krishnamurthy.

He said there are 3,928 freedom fighters and their dependents in the state, including 110 from Mysuru, who have not received the pension for the last three months. "Over 80% of them are completely dependent on the pension given by the government, and the Covid-19 crisis has turned out to be a testing time for most of them," he said.

Another freedom fighter, who did not wish to be identified, said, "Recognising our efforts in the freedom struggle, the government announced an honorarium for us. But now they are failing to make timely payments. Self-esteem stops us from coming out and complaining against this."

When the matter was brought to his notice, Mysuru Deputy Commissioner Abhiram G Sankar said he is not aware of the delay and promised to look into the issue.

Monumental effort: Hampi structures to be protected from monsoon fury

AMIT S UPADHYE @ Hubballi

AFTER floods wreaked havoc in Hampi last year, damaging ancient monuments at the world heritage site, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has taken up 'flood proofing' to preserve them. The region is prone to annual floods.

Work has begun on Purandara Mantapa, located on the banks of the Tungabhadra, and will be extended to other monuments too. The project has been jointly undertaken by ASI and the Hampi World Heritage Site Management Authority (HWHAMA).

Every year, when large amounts of water are released from the Tungabhadra Dam, several monuments in Hampi are inundated. The Purandara Mantapa is often the first to get submerged. In 2019, the water had partially submerged the Kodandarama temple, which had not seen floods for several years.

The waterproofing technology will be used to preserve the large stone pillars of Purandara Mantapa from damage.

"Flooding is an annual affair and many monuments are affected. Due to the water, there is growth of fungus and other mosses under some pillars, which could harm the monument. The technology is certified by the ASI, and will strengthen the pillars and sustain them during floods," an ASI official said.

"The technology has been used on Puranadara Mantapa pillars. Work is nearing the final stage. The method will be tried on other monuments. A proposal will be sent to the government," the official said.

In 2019, when a large amount of water released from the Tungabhadra Dam rose till Kodandarama Temple in Hampi, damaging the many monuments | EXPRESS

Pillars of temple fall due to rain, ASI team to visit today

KIRAN BALANNANAVAR @ Ballari

TWO pillars of an ancient temple mantapa in Hampi fell after heavy rain in the region. This was noticed on Sunday morning by local authorities, and the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) in Hampi has taken note of it.

The pillars, located in the front portion of the Shiva and Durga Devi temple in Hampi, collapsed due to the rain. The temple is located behind the famous Virupaksha temple. The ASI team is expected to pay a visit to the temple on Monday to inspect the damage.

There are several stone pillars in temples and surrounding mantapas and some of them are in a dilapidated condition. Heavy rain on Friday and Saturday night may have weakened the foundation, leading to their collapse.

The pillars are located near Lokapavana Puskarani (step hills) and restoration work is expected to start soon. "We learnt about the damage to the pillars and restoration work will be taken up soon, after a team of senior ASI officials inspects the damage. There are several such structures in Hampi which need protection and restoration. The ASI and Hampi World Heritage Area Management Authority has identified many such points," said an ASI official.

MLA sets up war room in constituency

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

KUNIGAL MLA Ranganath Doddaiah had a Facebook live session on Sunday wherein he asked people not to panic.

He said he has set up a Covid war room in his constituency where detailed monitoring of ILI-SARI cases is being done.

"Most of the people who are infected get better with treatment. It is important to identify the symptoms early. I had body pain while my son had loss of taste. Along with fever, these are sure symptoms and cannot be ignored. I want to go house to house in my constituency and make people more aware. We are exploring facilities like schools, colleges and hostels to set up care centres for asymptomatic Covid patients", he said.

Bangalore Rural MP D K Suresh, who had quarantined himself after Ranganath tested positive, had later attended a funeral wearing a Personal Protection Equipment kit to dispel misconceptions among people. The two leaders are planning a massive awareness drive in the coming days.

Jewargi MLA Dr Ajay Singh expressed concern over the exploding Covid cases in Kalaburagi district. "I will set up Covid care centres in the constituency in consultation with the district authorities wherever possible", he added.

Other political leaders who were affected by Covid include MLAs Bharath Shetty, H K Kumaraswamy, B Shivanna and MLC M K Pranesh.

The Grain Merchants' Co-Operative Bank Limited

H.O: No.2, Pampamahakavi Road, Chamarajpet, Bangalore - 560 018.Ph: 26677552

POSSESSION NOTICE FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
[APPENDIX IV (RULE 8-(1)]

Where as the undersigned being the authorised officer of The Grain Merchants' Co-Operative Bank Limited under the Securitisation and Reconstructionof Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest ACT 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (2) read with rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules. at The Grain Merchants' Co-Operative Bank Limited within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers in the following accounts having failed to repay the amount, notice is here by given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described here in bellow in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 9 of the said rules on the dates mentioned herein below. The borrowers in particular and the public in general is/are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of The Grain Merchants' Co-Operative Bank Limited for amount and interest on & other charges.

Date of Possession: 22.07.2020

Name of the Borrower & Description of the Property Mortgaged	Amount outstanding
Applicant. Smt Kamalamma All that property bearing Municipal No.74/A, 12th Main, 27th Cross, Division No.52 (60), Bangalore. Measuring East To West: 54 feet and North To South: 45 feet., and bounded On the East By: Site No.73, West By: Road, North By: Site No.74 & South By: Site No.75	54,48,648/- + Int. thereon 30.06.2020

'Amount paid if any by any of the above borrowers after issuance of Possession Notice, would be reckoned for ascertaining the dues payable at the time of realisation / settlement.

Earlier Possession Notice dated 21.11.2015 stand withdrawn

Place: Bangalore
Date: 22.07.2020

Sd/-
Authorised Officer,
The Grain Merchants' Co-Operative Bank Ltd.,
Bangalore -18

RELIANCE HOME FINANCE LIMITED

Branch Office: Reliance Capital - Commercial and Home Finance, 3rd Floor, 37, Lalbagh Road, Brahmananda Court, Bangalore - 560027
Corporate & Registered Office: Reliance Centre, 6th Floor, South Wing, Near Prabhat Colony, Santacruz (East), Mumbai - 400055.

SALE CUM AUCTION NOTICE

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer (AO) of the Reliance Home Finance Ltd. (RHF), invites tenders/Quotations for purchase of the properties specified below of the below mentioned Borrowers, under the provisions of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, read with the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, for recovery of secured debts as mentioned herein-below along with interest and costs, etc. of RHF. The Properties are proposed to be sold on **"As is Where is" and "As is Whatever there is basis"** and on without recourse basis.

S.No.	Name & Address of the Borrowers / Co Borrowers / Guarantors	Outstanding due for Recovery of which property is being sold	Reserve Price (RP), Earnest Money Deposit (EMD), Date of Inspection.	Date, Time & Venue of Auction /opening quotations /bids
1. 2. 3.	**M/s. Damden Properties** **Damla T Mathew,** **Dennis T Basil** Having Residence at: No.7/27, 4th Cross, Venkateshwara Layout, SG Palya, Tavarekere Main Road Cross, Near Big Bazzar Forum, Bangalore – 560 029.	**Rs.1,62,13,956/-** **(Rupees One Crore Sixty Two Lakh Thirteen Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty Six Only)** **as on** **16th June 2020.**	**Reserve Price:** **Rs.3,42,26,130/-** **(Three Crore Forty Two Lakh Twenty Six Thousand One Hundred and Thirty)** **Earnest Money Deposit:** **Rs. 34,22,613/-** **Inspection Date:** **17th August 2020 Between 11.00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M.**	**19th August 2020 at 11.00 a.m. Reliance Home Finance Limited, 3rd Floor, 37, Lalbagh Road, Brahmananda Court, Bangalore – 560 027.**
Property / Security Interest Details:- All the piece and parcel of the Land along with the Construction there upon In Sy No. 270, Vp Katha No. 270, Bidaraguppe Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore.				
1. 2.	**Mariappa Rathna** **Naveen D S,** Having Residence at: No.169, 5th C Cross, 5th Main, Vijaya Nagar, RPC Layout, Hampi Nagar, Bangalore - 560040.	**Rs.26,72,170/-** **(Rupees Twenty Six Lakhs Seventy Two Thousand One Hundred and Seventy Only) 3rd July 2020.**	**Reserve Price:** **Rs.82,53,000/-** **(Eighty Two Lakh Fifty Three Thousand Only).** **Earnest Money Deposit:** **Rs.8,25,300/-** **Inspection Date:** **26th August 2020 Between 11.00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M.**	**28th August 2020 at 11.00 a.m. Reliance Home Finance Limited, 3rd Floor, 37, Lalbagh Road, Brahmananda Court, Bangalore – 560 027.**
Property / Security Interest Details:- All the piece and parcel of the Residential Flat situated In No.12, 4th A Main Road, Byraveshwaranagar, PID No.38-66-12, Katha No.2820, Asst And No.83/1, No.3063 , Nagarbhavi Village, Bangalore-560072.				

Note: The AO may at his/her discretion permit inter-se bidding amongst the top three bidders.
2. Last date and place of submitting sealed quotations / bids: **On or before 18th AUGUST 2020 at 5.00 p.m.** Bids to be addressed to : To the Authorised Officer, Reliance Capital- Commercial and Home Finance, 3rd Floor, 37 Lalbagh Road, Brahmananda Court, Bangalore – 560027, Contact person: **Mr. Ramesh Ramu - Ph: 9341139507**

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

The Interested parties may send/submit their quotation/bid in sealed covers superscripting on the envelope as **"Quotation for Purchase of Properties"** - All that piece and parcel of the Residential Plot No. 328(N/P), Triplex House No.12, Royal Castlleum, Block B, Sy.No.22, 23 & 24, Mallampet Village & GP, Quthbullapur, Hyderabad, along with Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) by way of Pay Order/DD, drawn in favour of "Reliance Home Finance Ltd..", payable at Bangalore.

1. The EMD shall bear no interest, be adjusted in case of successful parties and shall be forfeited in case of default by such party.
2. Tenders/bids incomplete in any respect or unsigned or not accompanied by DD/PO for the requisite EMD are liable to be summarily rejected at the sole discretion of AO.
3. The aforesaid Properties shall not be sold below the reserve price mentioned above.
4. Successful party shall deposit 25% of the quoted amount, which amount shall include the EMD deposited, immediately on the same day by way of Pay Order / DD drawn in favour of "Reliance Home Finance Ltd..", payable at Hyderabad, and remaining 75% shall be deposited within 15 days of date of the confirmation of sale or within the extended period as allowed by the undersigned in writing. The AO may at his/her sole discretion extend in writing the time for making the payments. In case of failure to make the required payments by the stipulated dates, the EMD and all amounts paid till then, shall stand forfeited without any notice and the properties shall be resold.
5. All such Payments to be made only in the form of Pay Order or Demand Draft drawn in favour of the Reliance Home Finance Ltd., payable at Bangalore.
6. The Successful party would bear the charges/fees payable for sale/conveyance such as stamp duty, registration fees, taxes, levies, etc. as applicable as per law and also the miscellaneous expenses.
7. The AO will not be responsible for any charge, lien, encumbrance, property tax or any other dues to the Govt. or anybody in respect of the properties under sale.
8. The AO reserves its right to negotiate with the highest bidder for improvement in the offer and has the absolute right to accept or reject any quotation or adjourn/postpone/cancel the auction/sale without assigning any reason therefore.
9. The sale is subject to confirmation by the RHF.
10. If the Borrower pays the amount due to the RHF in full before the date of auction/confirmation of sale, the auction/sale is liable to be stopped.
11. To the best of knowledge and information of the AO, no other encumbrance exists on the above mentioned properties.
12. The bid is not transferable.
13. This publication is also a notice of 30 days to the Borrowers and Co-borrowers of the intention of holding of sale on above mentioned date if the dues are not repaid in full. If the borrower has any such proposal of selling of the properties to any person by private sale or by getting quotation, the same may be communicated to the undersigned within 7 days.

STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT, 2002

The Borrowers and co-borrowers are hereby noticed to pay the total outstanding dues before the date of opening of bid failing which the secured assets will be auctioned and balance, if any, will be recovered with interest, cost and charges thereon from you.

Place: Bangalore
Date: 27.07.2020

[Authorised Officer]
Name : RAMESH RAMU
Reliance Home Finance Ltd.

EDITORIAL

"Even if the restlessness is there, the yearning to do something to change the mood, and for 1.6 seconds we sit with that restlessness when yesterday we couldn't sit for even one, that's the journey of the warrior"

Pema Chodron

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

BIPARTISANSHIP ABSENT EVEN IN THE FACE OF CRISES

On Friday, the daily fresh Covid-19 cases came within a whisker of 50,000. The day also saw a record 757 deaths. Official data further showed that the daily cases in India have doubled since the beginning of July. In the midst of these grim numbers, two of India's biggest political parties, instead of showing unity of purpose to jointly face the health emergency, are engaged in a bitter power struggle. A fight between a young, restless and rebellious Congress leader and an old fogey of the party, fuelled in all probability by the BJP, has held the state to ransom even as the disease continues its relentless march. The political drama is such that politicians, hated figures already, have come to be detested by the public. With each passing day, the depths to which politics in this country sinks is something the entire political class, irrespective of party lines, ought to be ashamed of.

Gone are the days when BJP stalwart Atal Bihari Vajpayee, after he was appointed the foreign minister during the Janata Party regime in 1977, ordered Jawaharlal Nehru's portrait to be put back in the corridors of the Ministry of External Affairs. Overzealous officials had ordered it to be removed after the fall of the Congress government. Gone also are the days when, displaying bipartisanship, the then prime minister P V Narasimha Rao handpicked political opponents such as Vajpayee and the National Conference's Farooq Abdullah and sent them to Geneva in 1994 to scuttle Pakistan's plan to sanction India at the UN.

Today, as the country faces the triple challenge of the pandemic, the Covid-induced economic crisis and an expansionist China, the politicians should have closed ranks to meet the emergencies. They should have assured the public that during times of crises, they can put national interest above political ones. But instead, even as doctors and health workers go about treating patients with dedication and sincerity and soldiers, unmindful of their own lives, guard the borders in sub zero temperatures, all that the *netas* can do is to throw decorum and constitutional propriety to the wind to meet their petty political ends.

WHAT THE GOVT SHOULD DO ABOUT MASKS

People stepping out without wearing a mask in Jharkhand can now be fined up to ₹1 lakh and/or jailed for a couple of years. The fine amount is more than the average annual income of the state, which is one of the poorest in the country. With no vaccine in sight yet, and the national testing rate continuing to be woefully low, wearing a mask is the only way to prevent the spread of Covid-19. A recent analysis of Covid across 194 countries even shows that there is a 55% weekly increase in cases in places where wearing a mask is not recommended.

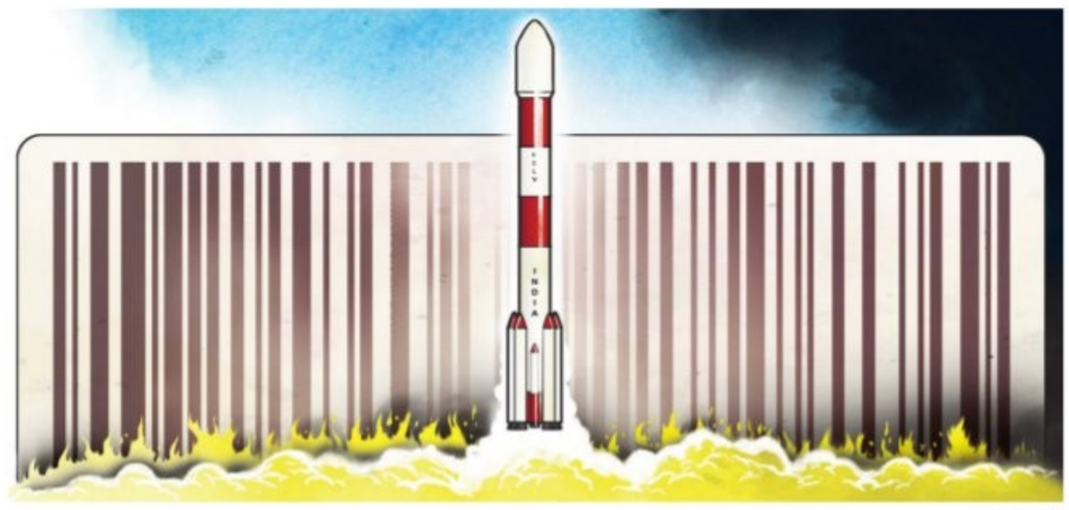
But are heavy fines and punishments the right way to make people wear masks? Take for example the case of Tamil Nadu. The government is going to distribute 14 crore masks to ration-card holders in the state, for free. Experts have reasons to believe that such an initiative would have a better impact than imposing hefty penalties. In both these cases, there is a bigger catch—lack of masks that meet safety standards. Experts have, time and again, warned that plain cloth masks cannot stop the virus. What could work are masks that have at least three layers, made of different fabrics.

Yet, there is no standardisation in this regard. A majority of masks being used, especially among the lower-income groups, are plain cloth ones that provide minimal or no protection. Even those buying the high-grade N-95, which boasts of almost total protection, are taken for a ride. Industry players say there are around 150-200 brands making N-95 masks right now, while in the pre-Covid era there were only a handful. Most of the fresh brands are fake ones. A researcher at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research was recently quoted in media articles as saying that most of the masks tested were far from meeting quality restrictions. It is at this juncture that the Centre has given its go-ahead to export non-woven fabrics used to make masks—a move that is likely to create a further shortage of quality products. There is an urgent need for the Centre to regulate the mask-making industry. The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation has been armed to deal with erring mask manufacturers, but it is yet to crack down on those putting lives of people at risk.

India's space programme is a success story and running like a well-oiled machine. So why is there a hue and cry about privatisation and what are the benefits?

WHY IN-SPACe WILL BE MORE CHALLENGING THAN CHANDRAYAAN-2

G MADHAVAN NAIR
Former ISRO chairman



AMIT BANDRE

As part of the ₹21 lakh crore economic package, privatisation of space activities was announced by the Centre. This was followed up, with rocket speed, by the announcement to set up IN-SPACe for promotion of private participation in Indian space programmes, including exploration of planets. The Centre's recent move has been welcomed by many but several questions—why is it needed at this time of Covid-19, what are the tangible benefits and whether adequate preparations are made—remain unanswered.

The Indian space programme is under a fully empowered Space Commission, directly reporting to the prime minister. The Commission is entrusted with implementing all activities related to space research in India. It has done exceptionally well as demonstrated by the development of homegrown technologies for satellites and powerful rockets for taking them to outer space. It is an excellent example of Atmanirbhar Bharat. The result is India has emerged as a global player in this field on par with developed nations. The uniqueness of ISRO is that it has evolved innovative techniques and put them to use for the benefit of the common man. Disaster management, telemedicine, tele-education and natural resource surveys are notable among them, not to mention applications to meet national security needs.

The uniqueness of ISRO's management system is that almost all technologies are available under one roof. This enables total system realisation end-to-end, starting from concept to detailed engineering, manufacturing and testing in a seamless manner. The space body's unity of command, participatory management and totally transparent review system, that can be summed up as ISRO culture, is responsible for its unmatched success story. Simple missions for atmospheric studies to most complex missions to the Moon and Mars are proof of the success of the existing system. In short, India's space programme is running like a well-oiled machine.

Right from the beginning, ISRO has taken the lead in ensuring use of industrial capability and academic talents in implementing its missions. The net result: ISRO's manpower has remained stable despite a nearly 10-fold increase in the number of missions in the last 10 years. In fact, the portion of ISRO's budget expenditure through industry has increased several-fold and is about 60% of its budget today. This in turn has provided more than 20,000 job opportunities outside ISRO.

The commercial activities of ISRO are managed through Antrix corporation as well as the newly formed NewSpace India Limited. The NSIL is mandated to expand and expedite technology transfer and total system realisation by private players. It also earns nearly ₹2,000 crore by selling space-based services in India and abroad, and has scope to double within the next five years. These independent corporations are doing nothing but space promotion.

The main reason private players are not getting into the arena is due to the heavy investment required, long gestation period, high risks and paltry return on investment, not exceeding single digits at the end of the day. The industrialisation is moving forward only due to the GOCO (government owned contractor operated) model adopted by ISRO. All large-capital investments are made by the government; companies carry out production activities based on ISRO designs. If total privatisation has to materialise, the industries will have to invest heavily on facilities and in human resources. Retaining trained manpower for long periods is going to be a challenge for the industry.

Nobody has reported any problems so far and no control or restriction is placed on private participation in space. Then why is there a hue and cry for privatisation? In that context, IN-SPACe is like treating a healthy person for a non-existing ailment. While the name IN-SPACe sounds good, it stands for Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre and is meant to promote private industry participation; the moment authorisation is added, it amounts to control or licensing. How can conflicting functions such as promotion and authorisation be combined into one entity?

> The main reason private players are not getting into the space arena is due to the heavy investment required, long gestation period, high risks and paltry return on investment

Now, can the new entity function effectively? The Department of Space can at best transfer satellite or launcher manufacture to industry. But the revenue out of this is small, less than 10%. The remaining is through services like satellite communication or earth observation data utilisation. For satellite communications, ISRO's role is limited only to leasing out transponders in its satellites. The necessary operating license and monitoring is done by the Department of Telecom and the I&B Ministry. Without participation of these departments in IN-SPACe, how can it take up promotion activities effectively? Similar is the situation in earth observation. It has considerable impact on national security. Mapping is controlled by the Survey of India. Without active involvement of these agencies, IN-SPACe can only be a coordinating agency.

Look at a satellite launch vehicle like PSLV. Its delivery capability is more than that of an IRBM (intermediate-range ballistic missile). Technology associated with launch vehicles and missiles is a guarded secret. In the name of industrialisation, can this be handed over to a private player without adequate safeguards?

Today in India, there are only policy guidelines for satellite communication and remote sensing applications, which are nearly 20 years old and outdated. Hence, a prerequisite for the new initiative to succeed is a comprehensive space law that will ensure security for the sensitive technologies as well as compliance with international space treaties and MTCR.

To be effective, IN-SPACe has to be constituted with the full participation of DoT, Ministry of Defence and Survey of India as well as use community and private players. The scope and modus operandi have to be carefully chalked out. There are serious doubts on the economic gains out of privatisation. The assessment of a $300 billion international space business is correct. But most of these are contained and guarded in developed countries. Once they have the capability, they will not even consider farming out to agencies outside their countries. India's share in this is less than fraction of a percent. Even if this increases tenfold, the size of the market will be less than $3 billion.

A major part of space application in India is for societal benefit and security purposes. They are not charged at market rates. Once we embark on privatisation, huge funding will have to be found by user agencies. Additional job creation is questionable and attracting foreign investment in areas of low returns is a mirage.

The government has taken a decision to implement IN-SPACe. ISRO is a well-disciplined organisation. It will have to take up the challenge of implementing an unproven novel concept. It will have to spend a lot of its time and resources first to get out of the flutter created by this small step and evolve a new managerial mechanism to make the next step. This is going to be more challenging than Chandrayaan-2.

ADDRESSING THE DEBT BUILD-UP DUE TO COVID-19

JHOOMAR MEHTA
Public policy and development finance researcher

KARAN BHASIN
New Delhi-based economist

The Covid-19 pandemic brought with it a challenge as countries suspended all economic activity by introducing lockdowns in an attempt to contain the spread of the virus. Naturally, these lockdowns came with huge economic costs for businesses the world over and necessitated that governments announce stimulus packages to absorb a part of the economic shock.

Due to the nature of the problem, a strong fiscal response was important to try to revive economic activity back to pre-Covid levels. This came at a time when most governments were aware of the limitations they faced due to their inability to raise revenues through taxes due to lower levels of economic activity. Consequently, we have since then witnessed several estimates that suggest a substantial increase in the projected debt to GDP ratio of major countries across the world.

Naturally, the revival of economic activity is the only solution to ensure that governments can eventually tax and raise adequate revenue. Doing so requires greater fiscal spending, which in effect implies an increase in borrowings. The problem arises due to several countries that have borrowings in US dollars or in foreign exchange rate, as any exchange rate movement could have a substantial impact on the cost of borrowing for these countries, restricting their ability to repay or borrow more at a time of such crisis. Moreover, with debt to GDP ratios across the world similar to the ones observed in the post-war period, we're witnessing unconventional monetary policy in the form of aggressive bond purchases by central banks across the world. Since 2010, debt owed by developing economies has witnessed an increase of approximately 54% due to low interest rates and reached a historical 170% of GDP by 2018.

The situation emerging countries and low-income ones find themselves in largely depends upon their macroeconomic fundamentals. Some economies have significant debt but also substantial external reserves. Some have primarily borrowed in foreign currency, while others borrowed in their own currency. Many countries borrow money from private creditors, and some lean on traditional sources, including the governments. However, countries that have borrowed in foreign currencies from the private market are expected to witness maximum stress upon their economies.

Many of the frontier market countries are at high risk of default and may find it tough to raise the necessary funds and fight Covid-19. Exposure to debt-related problems had been piling up in emerging economies prior to the occurrence of Covid-19. Differences existed but major issues leading to deteriorating finances included decline in international commodity prices, growth in private debt and hidden debts to China, the latter most prevalent in low-income economies.

For economies such as India, where the bulk of the government borrowings are domestic, there isn't much concern, but several other countries have borrowed extensively from other countries, multilateral agencies or foreign markets. According to the IMF, over US$80 billion were pulled out of the emerging markets during the first quarter of 2020, recording the largest outflow in history.

> In the absence of debt restructuring, many poor countries would have to cut back on their expenses. Forced austerity could create a deeper recession in the emerging markets that would spill over to the global economy

Countries in Africa had to face the twin challenge of protecting the health of their citizens and minimising the negative impact on their respective economies. At the same time, they are burdened with debt. They are in a position where in they have to pay back the borrowed money, leaving little room to divert their resources towards the urgent health and economic needs. Within Africa, variations exist. Countries like Zambia and Djibouti owe most of their external debt to China, while others have taken loans from bilateral(s), multilaterals or the private sector. Defaulting on loans can affect the possibility of borrowing money in the future, making the nations vulnerable to broader negative repercussions.

However, debt forms one part of the equation; the other is revenue. Countries like Zambia and Ecuador, which have significant external debt and majorly depend upon export of commodities like oil, copper or even tourism, find themselves approaching a situation of financial turmoil. Similarly, countries in the Middle East and Central Asian region had to witness two reinforcing shocks, resulting in weak growth projections and an urgent need to diversify their economic structure.

This makes it important to discuss the importance of debt restructuring, especially for some of the poorest and vulnerable regions of the world. The argument against debt restructuring or forgiveness is that it will dampen the credit discipline and permanently increase the cost of borrowing for emerging market economies.

However, credit from other countries or multilateral institutions could be restructured given the extent of economic shock that the world has witnessed due to the pandemic. The reason for this is that in the absence of such restructuring, several of these countries would have to significantly cut back on their expenses in order to meet their debt obligations. Forced austerity could in turn create a deeper economic recession in the emerging markets that would spill over to the global economy, dampening recovery from the pandemic. There is an added risk that in the event of defaults, we should expect significant volatility in international financial flows, which will further create problems for the global financial system.

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Flush out IS terrorists

The UN report that has revealed the presence of a number of Islamic State operatives in Karnataka and Kerala should galvanise intelligence agencies into action. The IS is known for its ruthlessness. There is a need to beef up security at vulnerable spots and conduct combing operations to flush these terrorists out of their hideouts.
C V Aravind, Bengaluru

Link to gold smuggling?

The UN report shows that the recent NIA probe into the Kerala smuggling case makes sense as the gold may have been used to fund terror activities in the state.
E Ravi Varma Raja, Ennakkad

Combating the virus

It is worrying that a CM has now tested positive for Covid-19 (*Covid strikes first CM, Shivraj tests positive*, July 26). Every one of us must be aware of the dangers of the virus. We must combat it by following guidelines like physical distancing.
J Sugandhan, Mayiladuthurai

Leaders must be careful too

All leaders must take this as a lesson to be more careful. Many are seldom seen wearing a mask and don't always maintain physical distancing. The virus does not differentiate between those in high positions and the common man.
Elizabeth Koshy, Pathanamthitta

Lack ideology, patience

Parties should try to have a good blend of older leaders and youngsters (*Cong gen next wants to be Pilot sans plan*, July 26). A leader who built himself up from the grassroots should get his due share. Unfortunately, the Congress young brigade lacks ideology and patience.
Naveen C, Attingal

Streamline safety system

This is with reference to *Giving top priority to industrial safety* (July 25). Too many Acts and regulatory boards will mess up any system. It is high time standard national rules are put in place by the Union government.
Varadharajan A, Sirkazhi

Not at cost of environment

One is at a loss to understand why a drug manufacturing company was allowed to be established in the vicinity of the Vedanthangal bird sanctuary. Manufacturing is important, but not at the cost of environmental decay. The TN forest department and pollution control board should act decisively at least now.
K M G Vivekanandam, Madurai

Protect 500-yr-old bridge

The Puranapul in Hyderabad is more than 500 years old. It is one of the oldest bridges in South India. Why is there no campaign to preserve the bridge and declare it a heritage site?
O Prasada Rao, Hyderabad

Remembering Kalam

PM Modi once said that the contributions of many were forgotten to glorify one family. That is true. But just remembering ex-President A P J Abdul Kalam on his death anniversary today is meaningless as his desires are yet to be fulfilled by the government. Kalam had stressed on the need to strengthen anti-corruption laws and this has to be taken up.
S Sethuraman, Thanjavur

Hope trials go well

It is wonderful to hear that AIIMS has administered the first dose of Bharat Biotech's Covid-19 vaccine. It is hoped the clinical trials go well.
K A Solaman, Alappuzha

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TWEETS OF THE DAY

Rahul Gandhi @RahulGandhi
On Kargil Vijay Diwas, I salute the brave heroes who protect India by dedicating everything.

Sitaram Yechury @SitaramYechury
We pay tribute to our brave soldiers today; to those who fell in the line of duty, and to all others who keep India safe.

Mamata Banerjee @MamataOfficial
On #KargilVijayDiwas, I salute all the martyrs and the brave soldiers who fought for the country. Jai Hind

War is fought at various levels within country: PM

In Mann Ki Baat, Modi pays tributes to heroes on 21st anniversary of Kargil war even as he warns the people against coronavirus

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh pays tribute to the martyrs of Kargil war on the occasion of Kargil Vijay Diwas, at National War Memorial in New Delhi | PTI

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi in his monthly radio broadcast paid tribute to war heroes on the 21st anniversary of Kargil war who were martyred.

Kargil Diwas is celebrated every year, marking the day the Indian Army recaptured all the Indian posts in Ladakh's Kargil that had been occupied by Pakistan's army 21 years ago. On July 26, 1999, the Army had announced the successful culmination of 'Operation Vijay'.

He also urged people to desist from actions, including posting comments on social media platforms, which demoralise armed forces guarding the country's borders.

"War is fought not only at the borders. It is fought at various levels within the country," Modi said, adding that sometimes people forward posts which are against country's interest on social media platforms even while knowing that their content is inappropriate.

PM flayed Pakistan for having indulged in mis-adventurism in Kargil while trying to grab Indian land. It did this also to divert public attention from its internal and domestic strife. In times of external threats, every Indian has to determine his/her role to be played, he said.

He added that unity of national consciousness increases power and enthusiasm of the country's defence personnel at the borders, and their family members, manifold.

He said India was "backstabbed" by Pakistan at a time when it was trying to improve the relationship with it. India cannot forget the circumstances, including the betrayal, under which Kargil War happened. Pakistan's mis-adventurism was given a befitting response, and the world witnessed the valour of India's brave jawans, said Modi.

Modi pitched for local for vocal under his overarching theme of "Aatm Nirbhar Bharat" campaign.

Referring to coming National Handloom Day(August 7), he urged people to promote khadi and handloom products.

With regards to coronavirus, he said the threat from it persists and urged for continued caution, including adhering to social distancing norms. Modi observed that the fatality rate is lower and recovery rates in Covid-related cases are higher in comparison to other countries.

RELOCK & MORE TESTINGS RESULTED IN LOW DEATHS

SANA SHAKIL @ New Delhi

Health workers conduct door-to-door Covid screening of residents of Jankalyan Nagar at Malad West in Mumbai | PTI

STATES that reimposed a lockdown to check the surge in Covid-19 cases and backed it up with aggressive testing managed to check the number of deaths, in some cases even brought it down, although in almost all the states there was a spike in fresh cases and active cases.

After India began the first phase of unlock on June 1, almost all states witnessed a surge in coronavirus cases. Alarmed, most reimposed a lockdown, largely localised, for a limited number of days and even periodic, such as Uttar Pradesh, where the relock is only on weekends.

This newspaper analysed if the relock had paid dividends, studying data of fresh daily cases, active cases and deaths during the relock period and the days preceding it.

The biggest finding from the relock is that states, cities and districts that augmented testing by over 20% were able to control casualty figures.

Of course, many other administrative steps were also at play, such as penalty for not wearing masks, ensuring door-to-door delivery of essential items, availability of well-maintained and well-stocked quarantine and medical facilities.

Maharashtra conducted 85% more tests during relock, Thiruvananthapuram 70%, Odisha 25% and Bihar 20%. The death rates either reduced substantially, as in the case of Bihar, or the growth rate was arrested, as in the case of Maharashtra.

In states where the testing rate was below 20% during relock, such as Assam 14%, Bengaluru 12% and Chennai 1.71%, the death rate seemed to go out of control, increasing by as much as seven times in Assam and 52% in Chennai.

As for active cases and fresh cases, except Thiruvananthapuram, there was a huge increase evrywhere, irrespective of the number of tests conducted.

The findings on the death rate only seemed to support what public health experts and epidemiologists have argued, that lockdowns only work when they are localised and supplemented by a clear strategy of increased testing and isolation.

"The whole idea of a lockdown is to improve the health system's capacity to respond. Increasing testing is an important component but each positive case needs to be acted upon with a strong public health response. So the states that have shown improvement in casualty figures would have not just increased testing but they must have also improved their public health response," said Oomen John, a public health specialist at The George Institute for Global Health.

In places where death rates came down significantly, the administration would have also identified people who were in close contact of those who tested positive, he said.

How states fared in June, July

MAHARASHTRA

	UNLOCK PERIOD: June 8-June 30	RELOCK PERIOD: July 1-July 23
Deaths	4795	4999 (increased by 4.25%)
Active cases	31215	64114
New Cases	88786	172741
Tests	417098	771831 (increased by 85%)

ODISHA

	UNLOCK PERIOD: July 12-July 17,	RELOCK PERIOD: July 18-July 23
Deaths	20	30 (increased by 50%)
Active cases	584	1890
New Cases	3584	4989
Tests	42450	52193 (increased by 23%)

BIHAR

	UNLOCK PERIOD: July 8-July 15,	RELOCK PERIOD: July 16-July 23
Deaths	59	55 (increased by 7%)
Active cases	3399	4036
New Cases	7648	11518
Tests	67935	81996 (increased by 20%)

ASSAM

	UNLOCK PERIOD: June 6-June 27	RELOCK PERIOD: June 28-July 20
Deaths	6	48 (increased by 700%)
Active cases	611	5598
New Cases	4922	17927
Tests	241490	276660 (increased by 14.56%)

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

	UNLOCK PERIOD: June 18-July 5	RELOCK PERIOD: July 1-July 23
Deaths	0	0
Active cases	966	896
New Cases	1006	1003
Tests	7922	13503 (increased by 70%)

CHENNAI

	UNLOCK PERIOD: June 2-June 18	RELOCK PERIOD: June 19-July 5
Deaths	345	525 (increased by 52%)
Active cases	9018	8191
New Cases	20495	29927
Tests	88886	90407 (increased by 1.71%)

BENGALURU (URBAN)

	UNLOCK PERIOD: July 6-July 13	RELOCK PERIOD: July 14-July 22
Deaths	176	414 (increased by 135%)
Active cases	6885	12918
New Cases	10122	17291
Tests	55248	55852 (increased by 1.09%)

(*Testing data not available for June 27 to July 2)

Maharashtra

To get a sense of how the state performed during relock, data for 23 days between July 1 and July 23 and the preceding 23 days were analysed.

From June 8 to 30, 4,17,098 tests were conducted, 31,215 active cases were detected and 4,795 deaths were recorded. During relock from July 1 to 23, the tests increased to 7,71,831, the number of active cases doubled to 64,114 but most crucially, the death toll during this period went up only to 4,999, or an increase of only 4.25%.

To better appreciate how the death rate was checked, data for 23 days before June 8, from May 16 to June 7, was also studied. The death toll in Maharashtra during this period was 1,992. In the next 23 days, from June 8 to 30, the toll went up to 4,795, a rise of 140%. But the rate was sharply brought down to 4.25% after relock.

Thiruvananthapuram

The Kerala capital was relocked from July 6 to July 28 and during this period it increased testing by 70%. The data analysed for 18 days from July 6 to July 23 and the previous 18 days from June 18 to July 5, showed that the active cases in the district reduced from 966 to 896. The new cases also came down marginally from 1,006 to 1,003. The district saw two deaths during the relock period.

Bihar

The Nitish Kumar government ordered a relock from July 16 to 31. The data of the first eight days from July 16 to 23 showed that deaths have actually reduced by nearly 7%, from 59 to 55. During the relock, the state increased testing by 20%.

Odisha

Odisha seems to be the exception to the general trend, where a 14-day lockdown has been enforced from July 18 onwards. Covid-19 data for six days from July 18 to July 23 was analysed and it was compared with the data during the preceding six-day period from July 12-July 17. While testing increased 23%, the death rate also went up by 50%. Active cases tripled while new cases went up by about 38%.

Assam

Assam was among the states where the testing percentage was low. The state capital, Guwahati, was relocked from June 28 to July 20 but it seemed to have little salutary effect, perhaps because testing increased by only 14.56%. The number of deaths during relock climbed seven-fold.

Bengaluru

A similar trend was seen in Bengaluru. The Urban Bengaluru district was relocked from July 14 to 22. Testing increased by only 1.09% during this period while deaths climbed by 135%.

Chennai

The Tamil Nadu capital was shut down again from June 27 to July 2. But it seemed to have little positive effect on deaths and daily new cases as testing increased by only 1.71% during this period.

LAC STAND-OFF

Rafale jets to give teeth to IAF's combat capability

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

GIVEN the heightened tension along the LAC, the arrival of five Rafale fighters will not only give more teeth to the combat capability of the Indian Air Force (IAF) but also provide psychological boost to the armed forces.

The twin engine multi-role Rafale brings with it an unmatched missile combination, creating deterrence among the hostile neighbours and multiplying India's combat effectiveness.

The Rafales are armed with Meteor beyond visual range air-to-air missile (BVRAAM) and Scalp cruise missile. Meteor has a range advantage over the missile in the inventory of Chinese and Pakistan Air Forces. Highly Agile and Manoeuvrable Munition Extended Range (HAMMER) — a modular, rocket-boosted air-to-ground precision-guided weapon series — might be added to its armoury.

Five of the total 36 Rafale fighters will be taken over by IAF pilots on Monday at Dassault Aviation production unit in Merignac, France. The five multirole combat aircraft will land in Ambala on July 29. The focus will be on operationalisation of the aircraft at the earliest. The first squadron will be based at Ambala.

There has been a pressing need to add to India's combat capability ever since the situation worsened on June 15 when Indian and Chinese troops clashed at LAC. The addition of the five Rafale fighters will give a boost to the IAF"s combat capability. An airforce officer said the range of the missiles will add to deterrence as well.

These aircraft will add to the combat effectiveness with the unmatched avionics and weapons and missiles. The range of the missiles will add to deterrence as well

Air Force officer

Polls: BJP's old head office turns war room

MANISH ANAND @ New Delhi

THE erstwhile BJP headquarters on Ashoka Road in the national capital is learnt to have turned into a full time war room, taking up election assignments one after another. The saffron outfit currently is overseeing preparations for the Assembly elections in Bihar later this year and West Bengal next year.

"The war room in the previous BJP headquarters is running full steam. The BJP has also set up one war room each in Patna and Kolkata. Scores of people trained in digital outreach and election works are manning the war rooms in Delhi and state capital under the supervision of senior BJP leaders," sources said.

While the Patna war room links up with the parent entity in the national capital, the saffron outfit is also learnt to have outsourced the ground feedback and inputs gathering works in districts of Bihar to an outside professional agency. The similar architecture is learnt to be employed for West Bengal also.

One BJP national secretary is learnt to be in-charge of the war room at the former BJP headquarters, with sources saying that over six dozens professionals, with skills in data analysis, connecting with the entities in the state capitals and even those at the polling booths over phones on real-time basis. One BJP national general secretary is also learnt to be holding strategy meetings from the Ashoka Road office.

The BJP had moved into the swanky headquarters at Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg in New Delhi in 2018. The Congress headquarters is also under construction in close proximity of the BJP's premises.

Focus on containing Covid spread in prisons

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"If they test positive, they are taken to isolation wards of allotted hospitals, where they will be under observation of prison wardens. If negative, they are taken to any of the nine special jail quarantine centres in the state, where they will be in quarantine for 14 days. After that, they will be sent to their respective district jails," said S Santhosh, DIG (Prisons). Kerala is relatively better off as it has reported only 15 cases so far.

Andhra Pradesh has gone a step further by arranging special jails for remand prisoners, where they will be lodged till their Covid test results turn negative.

Acting on similar lines, Karnataka keeps even new inmates who have tested negative under quarantine for three weeks in a separate block. Tamil Nadu has responded to the crisis by ramping up the screening process. Madurai Central Prison, where 28 persons including 15 prisoners have tested positive, now allows prisoners inside only after mandatory tests including thermal scanner. "Till the test results were out, the prisoners were kept in separate blocks inside the prison," said an official from the prison department.

Odisha, which had 17,812 prisoners as of March 20, has shifted 1,162 inmates to less-crowded jails. Now, under-trial prisoners are initially lodged in isolation wards. It has reported 37 cases among prisoners.

Maharashtra has released 10,000 prisoners with imprisonment term below seven years. Assam released 5,767 under-trial prisoners, Uttar Pradesh 18,000 while 6,000 inmates walked out of Chhattisgarh jails.

West Bengal, which has released 12,000 inmates out of 27,000-odd prisoners in phases, has now decided to extend the parole of 3,000-odd convicts by two more months. Plus, the government will not oppose the appeals of 9,000 under-trial prisoners who will seek extension of interim bail. 55 persons, including jail officials, have tested positive.

In Bihar, 31 prisoners have tested positive while four persons succumbed to the virus. 46 jail officials have also tested positive. Tamil Nadu reported one Covid-related death in prison.

Punjab, where 70 prisoners tested Covid positive, has started random testing among inmates as well as jail officials. Plus, each prisoner is provided with at least two masks. To keep the further spread of contagion under check, personal visits are suspended while video calling through mobile phones and ePrisons software is allowed.

In Chhattisgarh, jail authorities claim only two inmates have tested positive — one in Bilaspur and another with travel history at Dongarhgarh jail. "Both have been admitted in hospital. The jail premises are routinely sanitised and the health department promptly responds to calls from ailing patients across any jail," said K K Gupta, DIG - Prisons.

In Uttarakhand, six inmates had tested positive but all of them recovered. The state government has released 855 inmates on parole for six months to avoid overcrowding of jails. PVK Prasad, Inspector General of Prisons, said, "We are following safety norms and outsiders' entry has been prohibited for now."

[With inputs from our bureaux in Chennai, Kochi, Vijayawada, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chandigarh, Lucknow and Dehradun]

COVID TALLY

675 deaths in just 1 hr; total cases over 13.8L

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

WHILE India is putting in all efforts to prepare a vaccine for the cure of the deadly coronavirus, the world's third worst-hit country on Sunday recorded close to 49,000 (48,661) cases in the last 24 hours taking the total tally to over 13.8 lakh cases while the death toll crossed 32,000 (32,063) with 675 deaths in just one hour.

According to the latest data available on the website of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, total number of cases in India reached 13,85,522 of which 32,063 people have lost their lives while 8,85,577 have recovered.

The total number of active cases are 4,67,882 cases. Maharashtra remained the worst hit state after recording a single-day spike of 9,251 cases taking the state's tally to 3,66,368 of which 13,389 people have died of the deadly disease.

Maharashtra is followed by Tamil Nadu (2,06,737), Delhi (1,29,531), Karnataka (90,942) and Andhra Pradesh (88,671).

The national capital recorded a single-day spike of 1,142 cases taking the tally beyond 1.29 lakh cases of which 12,657 were active cases as 3,806 people died and 1,13,068 were cured and discharged.

With agency inputs

BHATT SUMMONED
Bollywood director Mahesh Bhatt and the CEO of Dharma Productions will be called in for questioning in the investigation of actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death, Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh has said

56 YEAR-OLD JUDGE, SON IN MP DIE OF FOOD POISONING

Ahmedabad	37	25	Mumbai	33	26
Bhopal	34	24	Panaji	31	25
Jaipur	37	26	Patna	35	28
Amritsar	34	28	Lucknow	37	26
Chennai	36	28	Port Blair	31	25
Kolkata	35	28	Imphal	30	22
Srinagar	31	19	Chandigarh	34	26

Shah summons Mukul Roy to Delhi

Roy returned to Kolkata after rejecting BJP's projections for 2021 assembly polls in Bengal

PRANAB MONDAL @Kolkata

BJP leader **Mukul Roy**, who skipped meetings with the national leadership after rubbishing party's claim that it would pick up at least 190 of the total 294 assembly seats in Bengal, has been asked by the party high command to visit Delhi gain on Friday. According to sources in the party, Union Home Minister Amit Shah may meet Roy who had returned to Kolkata after rejecting the projections about the 2021 elections.

Roy, however, said he was not sure about his visit to the national capital as he would undergo treatment for his eyes from Monday. "The doctor will examine my eyes on Monday. My schedule will depend on what the doctor will prescribe me," said Roy.

Roy, BJP's state chief Dilip Ghosh and other functionaries of the Bengal unit had left for Delhi on July 22 to attend a series of meetings with the national leadership to ascertain the strategy for the crucial assembly elections. During a meeting with national general secretary Kailash Vjayvargiya on Thursday, Ghosh had tabled projections claiming BJP would pick up as many as 190 seats out of 294 seats in next year's election.

According to sources, Roy rubbished the projections saying they were not grounded in reality. However, the other Bengal functionaries present in the meetings did not accept Roy's observation. It was learnt that an unhappy Roy returned to Kolkata without attending the subsequent meetings.

Roy, however, said that he had to return to Kolkata due to medical reasons. His sudden return to Kolkata became the talk of the state's political circles as he was once portrayed as the main architect behind BJP's meteoric rise in 2019 Lok Sabha polls in West Bengal.

According to sources in the state BJP, Roy has expressed his disgruntlement over Ghosh's dominance in the day-to-day affairs of the party on several occasions and he had gone to Delhi last month to vent out his feelings to the high command.

Roy has dismissed these stories about his dissatisfaction calling them mere speculation and rumours. He said, "All these are stories cooked by a section of media. I am very much with the BJP and I will be with the party."

NIA begins probe in old cases against Chhatradhar Mahato

BJP engaged the NIA to prove a case which was registered more than a decade ago. It is purely a political move and a conspiracy against me
Chhatradhar Mahato, TMC leader

The OBC connection
TMC's aim is to win back OBC voters via Chhatradhar Mahato who shifted their allegiance to BJP in the Lok Sabha polls, said political leaders

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Kolkata

A day after Chhatradhar Mahato, the face of Lalgarh movement spearheaded by the Maoists, was given a berth in the state committee of Trinamool Congress, investigators from the National Investigation Agency (NIA) landed in Junglemahal to investigate two cases against him. These cases were registered against Mahato 11 years ago and were handed over to the agency five months ago. The NIA has set up a camp office at Salbani and served a notice to Mahato asking him to appear before it.

Mahato alleged that NIA's move was politically motivated and a conspiracy against him.

The BJP had bagged all four Lok Sabha seats in the region in 2019. According to some political leaders, Mahato's inclusion in ruling party is aimed at winning back the votes of the other backward class (OBC) people who shifted their allegiance to the saffron camp in the Lok Sabha polls. Mahato belongs to the OBC community which forms a considerable chunk of vote share in Junglemahal.

The two cases, lodged against Mahato in 2009, were handed to NIA in last February and April, shortly after he was released from the jail.

"Mahato was one of the accused in a murder case related to the murder of a CPI(M) supporter in Lalgarh," said an NIA officer.

Mahato was also accused in a case related to the hijacking of a Rajdhani Express train and abduction of its driver in Jhargram.

"The accused had demanded the immediate release of Mahato from jail," the officer said.

5G: Beijing will survive ban on Huwaei, concur experts

PUSHKAR BANAKAR @ New Delhi

INDIA banned 59 Chinese apps while various states announced no Chinese participation in their projects following the violent face off between Indian and Chinese troops in Galwan Valley along the LAC. The telecom ministry has also hinted that China-based Huawei could be excluded from the 5G roll-out in the country. US, UK have also announced similar bans and countries like Australia, Vietnam and The Philippines, which perceive China to be an aggressor, are likely to follow suit.

These changes are likely to change the global geopolitical scenario. However, experts feel that the consequences of the ban on Huawei would not have major effect on Beijing.

"5G technology is at the centre of the emerging technology and will drive the fourth industrial revolution. It relies on a series of technologies, including semiconductors, optical fibres and rare earths. China has begun to localize all these elements. In the next five years, it is estimated that 5G global market will reach around 668 billion USD. New breakthrough in the download speed may enable nations to bypass 5G. The biggest issue Huawei faces at this time is the chips for its platforms from the US, which will have adverse effect on its global sales. Nevertheless, owing to price sensitivity, most of the countries along the Belt and Road initiative (BRI) are likely to opt for Huawei. Therefore, the geopolitics and geo-economics of the pro BRI will be played in the 5G spectrum too," B R Deepak, Sinologist and Chairperson of the Centre for Chinese and South Asian Studies at JNU said.

Russia-based political analyst Andrew Korybko feels that the ban on Huawei by many countries is due to pressure from the US as Washington understands the importance of 5G technology in accelerating the 'fourth industrial revolution'.

"By pushing its primary competitor out of major markets, the US hopes to capture their and ensure that it retains full surveillance control of their governments and people. American companies can't compete with Chinese who are more affordable and technologically advanced, which is why Washington has had to intervene in manipulating the marketplace through its information warfare narrative against Huawei," he said.

The Moscow-based analyst predicts that China will not suffer too much in the short term. "Whether geopolitically or economically, so long as Beijing manages to entrench its influence more firmly in the countries where the US has been unable to seriously compete with it. These are mostly the states of the Global South, barring India," he said.

Korbyko added that 5G technology is inevitable and many Western countries would bend towards the US.

"While this might worsen their relations with Beijing a bit, it's unclear whether the damage is irreparable since both sides have an interest in continuing and even strengthening their trade and investment ties. The post-Covid trend of restructuring global supply chains might end up damaging them in the medium- and long-term," he said.

A tech expert at a leading Indian telecom company said that affordability is one of the major criteria of procurement. "In the short term, many countries could afford to leave out Chinese technology but it is not sustainable.

KASHMIR

Congress, NC want statehood back, PDP vocal on Article 370

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

AS the first anniversary of scrapping of Article 370 and bifurcation of J&K state into two Union Territories is approaching, the main political parties including National Conference, Congress and J&K Apni Party want Centre to restore the statehood while PDP is the only party that has been very vocal on restoration of J&K's special status and other rights "snatched from people" on August 5 last year.

"We are fighting it (Article 370 scrapping) out in Supreme Court and that is where it matters. That is the only resort left for us," NC spokesman Imran Nabi Dar told this newspaper. The party has also been demanding restoration of statehood. The Abdullahs - Farooq and Omar - have maintained silence on scrapping of Articles 370 and 35A.

PDP has been demanding restoration of Articles 370 and 35A and statehood. Senior PDP leader and former MLC Firdous Tak said the party's stand on Article 370 is very clear. "We want restoration of Article 370 and other rights stanched from us on August 5". PDP president and former CM Mehbooba Mufti is the only mainstream leader still under detention under PSA.

J&K Congress chief Ghulam Ahmed Mir said the party wants restoration of statehood. J&K Apni Party chairman Altaf Bukhari has also urged the Centre to restore J&K's statehood on August 5, when it was snatched last year. Bukhari was the first mainstream politician to say that people should move beyond Article 370.

PRAYER FOR SHIVRAJ

BJP workers perform 'hawan' for speedy recovery of MP CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan from Covid-19 in Bhopal on Sunday | PTI

10 killed in 2020, no Srinagar resident active militant now

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

AFTER ten militants including two top commanders of Hizbul Mujahideen and Lashkar-e-Toiba and two security men were killed in five gunfights in Srinagar this year so far, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir Sunday said no Srinagar resident was active militant now.

However, IGP's statement is contrary to his own statement last month that a missing PhD scholar from Srinagar has joined militant outfit Hizbul Mujahideen.

IGP Kashmir Vijay Kumar in a tweet today said after the killing of LeT militant Ishfaq Rashid Khan on Saturday, no resident of Srinagar district is in militant ranks now. Two Lashkar militants including Ishfaq Rashid Dar R/o Sozeith, Srinagar, who was active since 2018, and Aijaz Bhat R/o Pulwama were killed in a gunfight with troops in Ranbirgarh-Panzinara area in the outskirts of Srinagar on Saturday.

EXPRESS READ

Job or pension for those who died on Covid duty

Patna: The Bihar government has decided to give the option of either pensions or jobs to the families of those state employees who die of Covid while in the line of duty. According to an official statement, this decision will be applicable to only those government staff who are performing Corona-related duties or working as frontline staffs against the Covid-19. The state government also dismissed 8 medical officers from services, who were missing from duty during the Corona period with any authorisation.

5 MORE DEATHS IN ASSAM, FLOOD TOLL CROSSES 100

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Guwahati

FIVE more persons perished in the flood in Assam on Sunday which took the toll to 102. The latest deaths were reported from Morigaon (one), Barpeta (two) and Kokrajhar (two) districts. Besides deaths due to drowning, 26 persons have died across the state since May due to landslides caused by heavy rain.

The overall situation remained unchanged as major rivers such as Brahmaputra, Dhansiri, Jia Bharali, Beki, Kopili and Kushiyara were still flowing above the danger level.

According to the Assam State Disaster Management Authority, over 24.76 lakh people from 2,265 villages and localities across 23 of the state's 33 districts were still reeling under the flood. Close to 46,000 of them were lodged in 457 relief camps in 18 districts.

The floodwater continued to breach embankments and damage bridges, roads and houses. Standing crop was under water in over 1.12 lakh hectares of land. State Disaster Response Force, police were engaged in rescue operations with the help of locals.

At Kaziranga National Park, 129 animals, including 14 rhinos, died till Sunday morning due to various reasons including drowning and vehicle hits.

Last week, CM Sarbananda Sonowal said the Centre had constituted a national committee that recommended the setting up of North East Water Management Authority under the chairmanship of NITI Aayog Vice Chairman to permanently solve the problems. He had also said that the Centre would take steps for passing an ordinance to this effect in Parliament.

Woman delivers baby on NDRF rescue boat

Patna: A woman delivered a baby on a rescue boat in flood affected East Champaran district in Bihar on Sunday. Rima Devi, 25, gave birth to a girl on a boat of the 9th Battalion of NDRF. She was in advance stage of pregnancy when she was rescued from her village. She developed acute delivery pains on boat. A team of NDRF rescuers, led by ASI Jitendra Kumar with the help of an ASHA worker ensured her privacy and safely delivered the baby on the rescue boat, said Commandant Vijay Sinha of the 9th Battalion

Thackeray puts PM's dream project on backseat, prefers bullet train to Nagpur

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @Mumbai

IN a setback to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's dream project – Mumbai to Ahmadabad bullet train, Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has said that he prefers bullet train project connecting Mumbai to Nagpur rather than Ahmadabad.

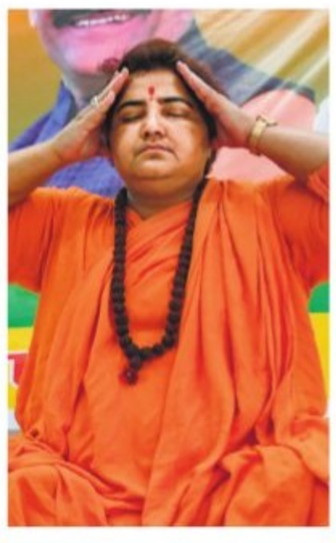
Thackeray, in an interview with Saamana, said that he would like to connect the capital of Maharashtra with the sub-capital. "There are some people who deliberately make a difference between people of Vidarbha and rest of Maharashtra. The Mumbai-Nagpur bullet train will help to bridge the gap. Like Samruddhi Mahamarg, the bullet train project will be competed if the central government revises its plan," he said.

There are two CMs in Maharashtra: BJP
Maharashtra BJP president Chandrakant Patil criticised the Uddhav Thackeray government, saying there are two chief ministers in Maharashtra- one is operating from home i.e. Matoshree while another is touring the state, he said hinting at NCP chief Sharad Pawar

Thackeray said that Shiv Sena has always supported the farmers who have opposed the bullet train. "Now, we are in government and we will do whatever it requires to support the farmers. In Nanar refinery also, the central government had approved the plan and some people even offered their land and the transaction also happened. But the majority of people were against it. So we cancelled it. The same will happen with Mumbai-Ahmadabad bullet train," the chief minister said.

Thackeray also said that the bullet train project was not a priority right now. "Since the inception of our government, no one has asked about this project and we have also not discussed it. We will first tackle people-oriented issues benefiting our state," Thackeray said.

Thackeray said that his government is like a three-wheeler auto rickshaw- the common man's vehicle. "We want bullet train but I prefer the auto rickshaw."



'Recite Hanuman Chalisa to beat corona'

A few months after leaving a BJP meet stunned with her claim that black magic by opposition was behind the demise of party leaders, including Arun Jaitley and Sushma Swaraj, Bhopal MP Pragya Thakur is at it again. She has appealed to city residents to recite Hanuman Chalisa five times every evening during the current lockdown to get ffrom Coronavirus. Her appeal found support from Minister of Medical Education Vishwas Sarang, who said Thakur hasn't asked to people stop medical treatment, but only appealed them to worship Hanuman- the god who eliminates crisis- which isn't wrong.

ANURAAG SINGH
Our correspondent in Madhya Pradesh
singhanuraag.jaurno@gmail.com

BHOPAL DIARY

Cong leader shares Scindia's pic on Nagpanchami

Jyotiraditya Scindia has been under sustained attack by Congress leaders since he left the party to join BJP and the resignation of his loyalist MLAs toppled the Kamal Nath government in Madhya Pradesh. Arun Yadav, former Union Minister and ex-PCC chief, is the latest to target the Rajya Sabah MP. Yadav shared Scindia's picture on Twitter while wishing Happy Nagpanchami - a festival dedicated to snakes - to people of the state. The post drew an immediate response from Scindia loyalist and MP minister Imarti Devi. She responded by asking the Congress leader to first find the real snakes in his party who are stinging the grand old party in MP. Our leader is a tiger and public servant, said Devi.

Computer Baba now on Loktantra Bachao Yatra

Controversial godman Computer Baba, who campaigned proactively for the Congress in the 2018 Assembly and 2019 Lok Sabha polls, has now embarked on Loktantra Bachao Yatra. The godman is now travelling to all bypoll-bound assembly seats in the state. In Shivpuri district on Saturday, the godman said the Yatra will expose the real face of BJP and CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan as well as the 25 traitors, the 25 Congress MLAs who have quit Congress to join BJP so far. "We'll particularly expose how Jyotiraditya Scindia and his loyalists back-stabbed an elected Kamal Nath regime in March," he said.

PhD vegetable vendor's video goes viral

A video showing a vegetable vendor speaking fluent English while protesting against the Municipal Corporation's drive to remove vegetable vendors in Indore has caught everyone's attention. Raisa Ansari was seen talking about how the crackdown has left the poor vegetable vendors penniless in fluent English. Ansari, who claims to have done PhD in Material Sciences from DAVV University in Indore, was seen asking officials how would she feed a family of 20 people.

24 Rohingya

feared to have drowned after jumping off their boat near the Malaysia resort island of Langkawi.

GLOBAL WEATHER

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	25	22	TDS	Los Angeles	25	15	SNY
Colombo	30	25	TDS	Melbourne	13	9	LC
Doha	42	18	SNY	Moscow	26	15	LR
Dubai	40	32	SNY	New York	36	7	LR
Houston	30	23	TDS	Singapore	31	25	LC
Istanbul	31	21	LC	Toronto	7	1	LC
London	21	14	LR	Washington DC	14	10	LR

A demonstrator kneels in front of police during protests in Seattle, Washington. On the right, members of the NFAC (Not F**king Around Coalition) militia march in Louisville, Kentucky, to protest the killing of Breonna Taylor, a 26-year-old EMT who was fatally shot when police officers burst through her apartment in March | AFP, AP

US protests explode after anger over Trump agents

1 dead in Black Lives Matter demo; California courthouse set on fire

SEATTLE

PROTESTERS took to streets across the US overnight into early Sunday, sparking clashes with police and a fatal shooting in Texas, amid a wave of anger over Donald Trump's planned "surge" of federal agents into main cities.

The demonstrations against racism and police brutality -- ignited two months ago by the death in Minneapolis of unarmed African-American George Floyd -- come as the US president faces an increasingly tough battle for re-election, and is campaigning on a "law and order" platform.

He has met stiff resistance from big city mayors, like Lori Lightfoot of Chicago, many of them Democrats who accuse Trump of magnifying the problem for political gain.

"I have drawn a very hard line. We'll not allow federal troops in our city," Lightfoot told *CNN*. "We will not tolerate unnamed agents taking people off the street, violating their rights and holding them in custody."

Protesters marched in Austin, Texas, as well as Louisville, Kentucky; New York; Omaha, Nebraska; California's Oakland and Los Angeles, and Richmond in Virginia.

$1 trillion

US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin has said that Republicans were set to roll out the next Covid-19 aid package Monday and assured Americans that there was backing from the White House after he and President Donald Trump's top aide met to salvage the $1 trillion proposal that had floundered just days before. Mnuchin promised that a fresh round of $1,200 stimulus checks would be coming in August.

In Austin, a man was killed in a shooting that broke out Saturday night at a protest in the downtown area of the Texas state capital, police said.

A witness, Michael Capochiano, told the Austin Statesman newspaper that the incident occurred when a man in a car turned onto a street where protesters were gathered and drove toward the crowd.

The vehicle became surrounded by shouting protesters, and one approached the vehicle carrying a rifle, he said.

The driver then stuck a gun out of the car window and fired several shots, hitting the man with the rifle, before speeding away, according to Capochiano.

Police said the shooter was in custody, and cooperating with investigators.

Police declare riots

In Seattle, police arrested 45 people during a night of violent protests in which demonstrators set fire to trailers by a construction site for a youth detention facility.

Protesters slashed car tires and smashed trailer windows, prompting police to declare a riot and clear the streets with pepper spray and flash-bang grenades.

Further south in Portland, police and federal agents fired tear gas and forcefully dispersed protesters for a second night early Sunday.

Police moved after a group of protesters tried to pull down a fence erected around a federal courthouse.

Protesters in Oakland, California, set fire to a courthouse, damaged a police station and assaulted officers after a peaceful demonstration intensified late Saturday,

Portland has taken center stage for the highly controversial crackdown by agents ordered by Trump -- one that is not supported by local officials, and which many say smacks of authoritarianism. *Agencies*

TV show on a conspiracy theory about Fauci pulled

NEW YORK

THE Sinclair Broadcast Group said it is pulling from the air an edition of its *America This Week* program that discusses a conspiracy theory involving Dr. Anthony Fauci and the coronavirus.

Sinclair spokesman Michael Padovano said Sinclair hopes to add context and other viewpoints and still air the controversial segment on the next week's edition of *America This Week*.

Meanwhile, Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease expert, talked in detail in a new podcast about the "serious threats" and hate mail directed his way.

America This Week is hosted by Eric Bolling, a former Fox News personality, and sent to stations Sinclair owns in 81 markets. The show it initially distributed for this weekend's show featured an interview with Judy Mikovits, maker of the widely discredited *Plandemic* video, and her lawyer, Larry Klayman.

Mikovits, an anti-vaxxer, said she believed Fauci manufactured the coronavirus and shipped it to China. There has been no evidence that the virus was produced in a lab, much less any of Fauci's involvement. *AP*

ASIA MATTERS

THAILAND

Red bull distances itself from heir after outcry

The maker of energy drink giant Red Bull has distanced itself from its Thai heir following public outrage after police dropped charges against the billionaire scion in a fatal hit-and-run case. Vorayuth "Boss" Yoovidhya, the grandson of Chaleo Yoovidhya who co-founded Red Bull and is one of the heirs to the family's business, was accused of killing a police officer in 2012 when he crashed his Ferrari in Bangkok's most exclusive neighbourhood. An arrest warrant came five years later, but by then he had fled in a private jet to Singapore. On Friday, police confirmed the remaining charges against him had been dropped, including reckless driving causing death.

SINGAPORE

481 new cases recorded

Singapore reported 481 new Covid-19 cases, all foreigners, on Sunday as the nationwide tally of the infections touched 50,369, the health ministry said. Of the new cases, 476 are migrant workers living in dormitories, while five community cases reported are also foreigners holding work passes, said the Ministry of Health (MOH). There are also four imported cases.

PAKISTAN

Virus deaths plunge but govt warns of Eid spike

Pakistan has seen an 80% drop in coronavirus deaths but risks a spike in new cases after the upcoming Eid festival, a government health official said Sunday. As per government data, Pakistan saw daily virus deaths peak at about 150 in June. On Saturday, only 24 new fatalities were reported over the previous day. Zafar Mirza, a senior health advisor for PM Imran Khan, told reporters about 6% of those being tested were positive. "The number of deaths caused by coronavirus has dropped by 80 percent in Pakistan," he said. In all, Pakistan has confirmed 274,003 cases including 5,840 deaths. Many in Pakistan reluctant to get tested and overall testing rates are still low, as per reports.

1st suspected Covid case in N Korea; city locked down

SEOUL

NORTH Korean leader Kim Jong Un placed the city of Kaesong near the border with South Korea under total lockdown after a person was found there with suspected COVID-19 symptoms, saying "the vicious virus" may have entered the country, state media reported Sunday.

If the person is officially declared a coronavirus patient, he or she would be North Korea's first confirmed case. The North has steadfastly said it has had no cases of the virus, a claim questioned by outside experts.

The lockdown was declared Friday afternoon. The North's official Korean Central News Agency said the suspected virus patient is a runaway who fled to South Korea three years ago before illegally crossing the border into the North early last week.

KCNA said respiratory secretion and blood tests showed the person "is suspected to have been infected" with the coronavirus. It said the person was placed under quarantine. People who had been in contact with the suspected patient and those who had been to Kaesong in the last five days were also quarantined.

The city of Kaesong, North Korea | KYODO NEWS VIA AP

Describing its anti-virus efforts as a "matter of national existence," North Korea earlier this year shut down nearly all cross-border traffic, banned foreign tourists and mobilized health workers to quarantine anyone with symptoms. But the Kaesong lockdown is the first such known measure taken in a North Korean city to stem the pandemic.

Foreign experts say a coronavirus outbreak in North Korea could cause dire consequences because of its fragile public health care infrastructure and chronic lack of medical supplies. *AP*

'LITHIUM COUP'

Elon Musk, CEO and co-founder of Tesla, has tweeted that the US government "will coup" whoever it wants, in response to a user alleging that the government brought down former Bolivian President Evo Morales so that Musk can obtain lithium in the South American country. We take a look at the role lithium plays in Bolivia

BACKGROUND OF THE THEORY

- Morales had alleged in December last year that he was forced from office by a United States-backed coup d'etat aimed at gaining access to the South American country's vast lithium resources
- Since then, the phrase Lithium Coup had gained traction among global supporters of the ousted leftist leader, who had been counting on lithium to serve as the economic engine that lifts his country out of poverty
- Morales said Washington had not "forgiven" his country for choosing to seek lithium extraction partnerships with Russia and China rather than the United States

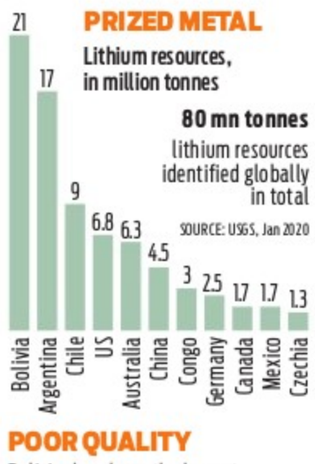
LITHIUM

Key component of batteries used in smartphones, laptops and electric cars

47 mn tonnes

of metal's resources identified in South America's **Lithium Triangle**

63% China is the world's biggest consumer of lithium, with 63% of the market, as per one estimate



POOR QUALITY

Bolivia does have the largest confirmed lithium resources in the world, but they are widely thought to be of poor quality

20 The concentration of magnesium in Bolivia's lithium reserves is 20 times that of neighbouring Argentina and three times that of Chile

I'm absolutely convinced it's a coup against lithium. We as a state had begun industrializing lithium... As a small country of 10 million inhabitants, we were soon going to set the price of lithium

Evo Morales, ex-PM of Bolivia, in Dec

We will coup whoever we want! Deal with it

Elon Musk, CEO of electric car-maker Tesla

Rishi Sunak considering minority figures on UK coins: Report

LONDON

UK Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak is reportedly considering a proposal for influential ethnic minority figures to be featured on a set of UK coins to celebrate Britain's diversity.

According to *The Sunday Telegraph*, plans have been submitted to the Royal Mint to work out some proposals as the Indian-origin Chancellor reflects upon a campaign to put influential black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) figures from history on a set of coins titled "Service to the Nation".

Khudadad Khan, a soldier, and Noor Inayat Khan, a WWII spy for Britain

The candidates in the running include Noor Inayat Khan, who was the first Indian-origin World War II spy for Britain, and Khudadad Khan, the first soldier of the British Indian Army to become the recipient of the prestigious Victoria Cross, the highest military award for gallantry in the face of the enemy given to British and Commonwealth forces.

"We propose a specific next theme of service to the nation by black, Asian, and other ethnic minority people, both in military conflict and on the home front,' says Zehra Zaida, an Indian-origin Conservative Party candidate behind the campaign, in a letter to Sunak.

'This theme will unite people, especially now as the nation has come together through the pandemic, and is collectively recognising the heroic work by ethnic minority staff in our health and care services," according to the letter.

UK Treasury minister John Glen told 'The Sunday Telegraph' that Sunak was "keen to support" the "timely proposal". Zaidi's campaign is supported by several historians including Shrabani Basu, the author of *Spy Princess: The Life of Noor Inayat Khan*. *PTI*

SMALL TALK

US talk show legend & beloved TV personality Regis Philbin dies

Regis Philbin and Kelly Ripa in 2011 | AP

WASHINGTON

REGIS Philbin, the genial host who shared his life with television viewers over morning coffee for decades and helped himself and some fans strike it rich with the game show *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire*, has died at 88.

Philbin died of natural causes Friday night, just over a month before his 89th birthday.

Celebrities routinely stopped by Philbin's eponymous syndicated morning show, but its heart was in the first 15 minutes, when he and co-host Kathie Lee Gifford — on *Live! with Regis and Kathie Lee* from 1985-2000 — or Kelly Ripa — on *Live! with Regis and Kelly* from 2001 until his 2011 retirement — bantered about the events of the day. Viewers laughed at Philbin's mock indignation over not getting the best seat at a restaurant the night before, or being henpecked by his partner.

"Even I have a little trepidation," he told The Associated Press in 2008, when asked how he does a show every day. "You wake up in the morning and you say, 'What did I do last night that I can talk about? What's new in the paper? How are we gonna fill that 20 minutes?'"

"I'm not gonna say it always works out brilliantly, but somehow we connect more often than we don't," he added.

"One of the greats in the history of television, Regis Philbin has passed on to even greater airwaves," US President Donald Trump said in a tweet. "He was a fantastic person, and my friend."

Ripa and her current partner, Ryan Seacrest, called Philbin "the ultimate class act, bringing his laughter and joy into our homes every day."

Philbin logged over 15,000 hours on the air, earning him recognition in the Guinness Book of World Records. *AP*

A demonstration against the government near the PM's residence in Jerusalem | AFP

Anti-Bibi demos show fury for botched Covid response

JERUSALEM

"WE won't leave until Bibi leaves." Israel's struggle to contain the coronavirus has stirred deep-seated resentment towards Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and protests demanding his resignation are growing by the week.

As the Shabbat rest-day was ending on Saturday evening, thousands of demonstrators headed towards Netanyahu's Jerusalem residence, a main site for protests that have taken place in multiple cities. Some demonstrators branded Netanyahu -- who has been indicted with bribery, fraud and breach of trust -- as corrupt, while others condemned a lack of coherence in the government's response to the pandemic. *AFP*

$517.64 bn was the level of India's foreign exchange reserves as of the end of July 17, a rise of $1.27 billion compared to the previous week

WHY DO WE SAVE AND NOT INVEST?

Experts say Indians cling to physical assets like land, house or gold because that is an instinct

RAJAS KELKAR

INDIA is a country of savers and not much of investors. Only 2% per cent participate in equity markets directly or through mutual funds, and there is almost zero direct participation in bond markets. They do not live up to the potential.

The risk-averse nature of Indians was debated at a digital summit last week.

As the pandemic continues to disrupt regular economic activity, industry associations have started adapting to technology. An online capital market summit was organised by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) last week. Usually, it is an event where people gather at a plush hotel in Mumbai or New Delhi. This year, it was different. People either presented from their offices or the comforts of their home.

Most of those who attended the event were experts in the banking, financial services sector. There were a lot of industry-specific issues raised.

A common lament though was about the inadequate retail participation in financial markets. A Mumbai-based professional financial advisor pointed out that Indians cling to physical assets like land, house or gold primarily because that is an instinct.

Over centuries, Indians were farmers and every time they had a bumper harvest. They either bought gold or land or a house. That instinct refuses to go away.

The pandemic is likely to make Indians even more risk-averse. Although there is a considerable increase in the number of Demat accounts opened during the lock-down, converting people to investors from hoarders of gold and property would remain a challenge.

Wrong advice

A significant problem is a piece of advice. Your first investment is usually an insurance policy that pays back money at regular intervals. Some of you dabble directly in the stock market with an idea to make some quick money. A lot of surge in the retail investor participation during the lock-down was due to that instinct. Index investing is unheard of as mutual funds tend to promote diversified equity funds that outperform those indices.

That is partly because of the higher fee they can charge for fund management. An ordinary investor could be better off regularly investing in a Sensex or a Nifty fund to channelise long-term savings for wealth creation.

A way out is to create a network of professional advisors who can help them make an appropriate first step into the world financial planning.

Pressure on investment surplus

Household investments are likely to witness multi-pronged pressure going forward. A thought that emanated from the conversation among participants at the event was that households might prioritise savings over spending and investment. Navneet Munot of SBI Mutual Fund pointed out the fact that families in India spent more than they earned due to easy availability of credit. They may now back off from it.

There is a good chance that over the next few months, household allocations would be more towards fixed deposits and government-sponsored investment schemes like the Public Provident Fund and National Savings Certificate.

New investors

Over a million people have opened a Demat account since the lock-down. Usually, amidst the euphoria about fast money in the stock market, new investors end up buying shares on hearsay. They lose money and never return. Sebi chairman Ajay Tyagi called for allowing new investors to buy into government securities.

He suggested that they should be offered in a Demat form to tap the fresh enthusiasm of ordinary investors. Government bonds or G-Sec are the safest instruments for new investors. You are unlikely to lose any money as the interest in these government securities is guaranteed by the government.

Currently, it is a complex process to own these securities for individuals as the minimum investment is ₹10,000.

What you should do?

If you have recently signed up for a Demat account and want to make that first trade in the market, you should buy an index exchange-traded-fund every month. That should be the money you do not need immediately. You can hold on to purchase equity shares directly. If you insist, try a company that is part of the Sensex or the Nifty. However, act only after getting professional advice.

(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

AMIT BANDRE

EQUITY TALK

Where should you be investing right now?

ASHOK KUMAR

HAVING turned me into a reluctant new convert to the Online Meeting platform last month like millions of others have across the globe, my team has now pushed me into becoming an occasional Guest Speaker at Online Investor Seminars across the country.

As was the case when I used to speak offline, the Question & Answer segment at the end of these online sessions too have provided me with a fair insight into investor mindsets and how the prevalent scenario has impacted the behavioural patterns of investors.

Online questions are often more topical. A more popular one I have fielded more than once of late revolved around Gold and the advisability of selling off other holdings to accumulate Gold given its resurgent price. My response has been to remind those investors about the importance of Asset Allocation and how Gold has traditionally been used to hedge equity holdings in a portfolio. While in the near term, an additional exposure to Gold in the form of a Tactical Allocation can be considered given the state of oil prices and the US dollar, I would tend to hesitate to cross the upper boundary I have set for this sub-asset class in my portfolio.

Another popular question from younger investors is about investing in cryptocurrencies and here I plead both relatively less interest and knowledge besides being hesitant to invest in a product that is unregulated. I do add the caveat though that I am too much of a dinosaur to know much about this emerging asset avenue and whosoever does so, must do their own due diligence and not invest only because of the periodic spectacular rise in values.

Finally, the question that invariably figures at the end of every seminar is the million dollar one-why are the Indian equity markets rallying even in the face of a raging pandemic, likely shrinking of the economy and an economic revival cycle that is anticipated to be long drawn. Well, the index numbers are a trifle misleading as there is one company with a high index weightage that has raked in the greenbacks, almost on tap over the last couple of months. This has resulted in a sharp surge in its stock price with attendant benefits to the indices.

Then, there is the fact that equity markets thrive on hope and discount not the present gloom but the prospect of a better future six to nine months down the line. With news flows suggesting that there could be some concrete announcements on at least one successful vaccine in the abovementioned timeframes, there is the hope that a big break-out rally may materialize once it is more visible.

Of course, it does not take much at the bourses for hope to turn to despair and it is hence that I still stick to the time-tested technique of asset re-balancing to ensure that asset class boundaries do not get stretched when euphoria overtakes rationale.

FINANCIAL ADVICE

ASHOK KUMAR
heads LKW-India. He can be reached at ceolotus@hotmail.com

Indian investors look to snap up real estate on the cheap abroad

JAYANTA ROY CHOWDHURY
@New Delhi

VINOD and Rashmi Maheshwari have been looking around for a home in Europe for sometime and reckon the pandemic could now throw up opportunities both for second homes as well as investments which can be used for tourist rentals later. Added to that are the attraction of schemes which many European nations like Portugal are hawking, such as investor visas or citizenship which are issued if one makes an investment beyond a certain threshold.

Consultancy firm Oxford Economics estimates that property prices have fallen in all major European countries except outliers like Germany. Prices in Southern Europe-in countries like Greece, Spain and Italy-were among those most impacted, aver many sources.

In the German market, prices in major cities rose by just 4 per cent compared to an average of 10-12 per cent in previous years. What makes western countries attractive buys are not just prices but also low interest loans. Loans are now available from global banks for such purchases at historically low rates for purchases in most western markets.

Malta and Portugal have proven to be popular destinations they offer easy residence and visa programs with investment. Cyprus and Greece provide residence and Shenzhen visas for investments in real estate worth 300,000 and 250,000 euro respectively. Others have similar programs with riders on investment in bonds or manufacturing. UK offers residence within two months on an investment of £2 million in the UK Investor Immigration Program.

Said Manish Arora, an international realty consultant, "Buying a house anywhere, and especially in a western market, is a bet that things will improve in coming years, which we feel is correct. It is also an investment in the tourist rental market. So you get both property appreciation plus rentals."

> **Buying a house anywhere, and especially in a western market, is a bet that things will improve. It is also an investment in the tourist rental market. So you get both property appreciation plus rentals**
>
> Manish Arora, international realty consultant

Many historic towns in Italy for instance have low property prices. Investors may, however, need to spend some money in cosmetic improvements, warns Arora. Once tourism picks up after the Covid-19 pandemic subsides, profits from rentals are expected to go up. As are property prices. "With work from home becoming a norm in many sectors, it makes sense for even upper middle class professionals to relocate and work from a country of their choice." Greece's Golden Visa program has proved to be popular with the Indian rich ever since it was announced in 2013, Arora added. "Greece is a tourist nation and subletting is easy there, this adds to the attraction."

Mindspace Business Parks REIT Initial Public Offering opens today

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

INDIA'S first Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT) launched last year—Embassy Office PArks REIT—has impressed investors with the yields its shares have returned, at least before the pandemic struck and the markets tanked in March this year. Now, India is set to see the second Initial Public Offering (IPO) of a REIT on Monday, with Mindspace Business Parks REIT proposing to raise up to ₹4,500 crore through the listing.

The trust has so far brought in ₹2,644 crore from anchor and strategic investors. A REIT owns, operates, or finances income-producing properties. Mindspace, according to reports, has brought 295 lakh square feet of office properties in cities such as Mumbai, Pune, Chennai and Hyderabad, of which the portfolio boasts around 245 lakh square feet of completed properties. Industry experts note that the rental income from such a portfolio is likely to be around ₹1,200 crore.

Mindspace has fixed the price band for its public issue at ₹274-275 per unit. Embassy had seen its share prices move from ₹328 in April 2019 to ₹467 on March 6, 2020 (a rise of nearly 42 per cent) before tanking along with the rest of the market after the pandemic. The prices as of Friday are ₹366.71, still up by over 11 per cent.

But whether rents will remain as lucrative after the pandemic has catalysed a shift toward more work-from-home policies remains a question. "Despite global and domestic economic upheavals of 2018-19, India posted its highest-ever office space absorption for two consecutive years, clearly underlining a very strong occupier demand for its office buildings," said Anurag Mathur, CEO, Savills India.

HIGH RETURNS

42%	11.8%
pre-Covid increase in Embassy REIT prices	Embassy REIT shares rise since April 2019

Mindspace has brought 295 lakh square feet of office properties

Small savings plans at branch post offices

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @New Delhi

FROM now onward, over a lakh branch post offices across the country will enable people to invest in all of the government's small savings schemes. Such services had been limited to a few urban areas until now.

"In order to strengthen its network and postal operations in rural areas and provide facility of small savings scheme to the vast majority in villages, the Department of Posts has now extended all small savings schemes up to the Branch Post Office level," a release said. According to new order, 1.13 lakh branch post offices will now offer services related to the account operation for the Public Provident Fund, Monthly Income Scheme, National Savings Certificate, Kisan Vikas Patra and Senior Citizen Savings Schemes.

These offices are spread across rural areas, and "people living in villages will now be able to get the same post office savings bank facilities which people in urban areas have been availing," said the DoP.

TODAY'S STOCK PICK

ALKEM LABS

Current Price ₹2,484

Target Price ₹2,875

While the pandemic could affect DF growth in the near term and subsequently impact earnings, we believe that ALKEM has enough levers (new launches/increased market share in DF/the US and minimal regulatory risk) to strengthen its earnings trajectory. We expect 15% earnings CAGR over FY20-22E, led by 16%/10% sales CAGR in the US/DF generics.

Disclaimer: The views and recommendations made above are that of the individual analyst or broking company, and not that of *The New Indian Express*

— Motilal Oswal Securities Limited

EXPRESS READ

Indian Bank slashes rates of agri gold loans

Chennai: Indian Bank has reduced the interest rate on gold loans it offers to farmers down to 7 per cent. According to bank officials, the move has been made considering the present pandemic and to help provide easy credit access to needy farmers at a cheap cost. The rate cut will go into effect from July 22, after which interest rates of the short-term long Bumper Agri Jewel Loan will fall to 7 per cent from the earlier 7.5 per cent.

MF collections via SIPs up 3% in H12020

New Delhi: Mutual fund collections via Systematic Investment Plans (SIP) witnessed an increase of 3 per cent year-on-year to over ₹50,000 crore in the first half of 2020 According to Association of Mutual Funds in India data, SIP contributions from January to June rose to ₹50,102 crore from ₹48,757 crore in 2019.

Govt amends Indian Accounting Standards

New Delhi: Indian Accounting Standards (Ind-AS) including 103 and 116 have been amended, including those related to leases, a move which could have a significant impact on decision-making for businesses. The changes allow entities to get relief from lease modification accounting due to rent concessions related to the current pandemic.

Patel, Acharya and the Centre-RBI relationship

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

PATEL divulged little about what caused his exit, pinning it all down to the lack of progress on IBC, but seasoned observers will recall how the rift between Mint Street and North Block widened to a personality clash endangering intellectuals' and institutional credibility.

Both books have exhaustive data on bad loans, laxity in central banking regulation and the imposing role of government. But such a diagnosis and regulatory recommendations was a path several governors and committees have taken in the past. That's because, the overarching presence of state-run banks and public sector enterprises, where government dominates and affects outcomes isn't new. We have been living with the fact that the! sovereign isn't at arms length from regulators, while the fight for regulatory independence and autonomy goes round the clock.

Unlike past governors who served with persistence even when government brooks no dissent, Patel-Acharya's disagreements morphed into a public spat in short time. If only, the ivy league economists brought a unique approach to problem-solving and deployed out-of-the-box thinking to avoid confrontation and embarrassment.

Policymaking in India is mired in bureaucratic complexities and government has multiple obligations to serve. The question is, if it's even possible to right the wrongs of several decades in a year or two without facing dissent just like how RBI replaced over a dozen restructuring schemes with just one, which become popular as the February, 12 circular.

Can the sovereign, even if it wills, take such a radical step to end dual regulation of state-run banks, or separate debt management functions from RBI or privatize banks overnight? Or give up its indulgence in pork-barrel politics and subsequent credit-fuelled economic booms and reduce fiscal dominance only to allow monetary policy's stated goal of inflation?

If government's achievements can't be judged based on one term, regulators' attempts in 1-2 years is too little to overhaul the very foundation of our financial system. While Patel and Acharya laid a roadmap to course correct, perhaps one should walk an extra mile to outsmart anticipated bureaucratic hurdles and prevail despite differences.

Both have much to tell and reflect on how not to get on the wrong side of the sovereign that could help a great deal in improving regulator-government dialogue. Particularly Patel, who is yet to break his silence on demonetisation and how essential is it for successive governors to master the art of saying no.

Perhaps that warrants another book or two. Over to Patel and Acharya.

Sangakkara backs Dada for ICC top post

Sri Lanka legend Kumar Sangakkara has backed Sourav Ganguly for the ICC chairman's post, saying the BCCI president's "astute cricket brain" and vast experience as an administrator make him a "very suitable" candidate for the role. Sangakkara said the former India captain has an international mindset, which is necessary to remain unbiased in an important position.

BOXERS GET READY TO PUNCH A FIRST

Inaugural full-fledged national camp for elite athletes after lockdown starts in NIS Patiala today, losing weight top priority

ANMOL GURUNG @ Chennai

IT'S been over 100 days since boxers have been under unfamiliar surroundings. Thanks to the lockdown, most had just been able to carry out basic training. From Monday, they will finally be able to express themselves like they used to, as they get back to proper training at NIS, Patiala, after getting green light from the Sports Authority of India (SAI).

Just as they were assembling to start training, there were controversies, but those are in the past now. This will be the first full-fledged national camp for elite athletes in the country after the lockdown and the team is looking forward to this.

Patiently waiting for this day was men's high performance director Santiago Nieva. The Argentina-born coach from Sweden has been at the facility since March. He was planning the training regimen and had a detailed meeting with his coaching staff on Sunday.

"The first week will be introductory," Nieva told this daily from Patiala. "We will start with medium load and training will mostly involve running. We'll assess how the boxers are, especially their fitness levels. From next week, load will be increased gradually."

The women pugilists got a headstart, having begun training just a few days back because their quarantine restrictions got over early. The men, most of them qualified or on verge of qualifying for the Olympics, are eagerly waiting for training.

> The first week will be introductory. We will start with medium load and training will mostly involve running. We'll assess how the boxers are, especially their fitness levels.
>
> Santiago Nieva, BFI high-performance director

"Some countries have already begun training," said Nieva on a slightly worried note. "So this is a big step forward for the pugilists. We need to go back to tougher training," he said. "They have been training at home but we need to make sure that we put on good load and see how much they are capable of taking and gradually add volume so that we can have a solid base."

Nieva felt it would be wise to not start with a bang. "We don't go for the kill from the word go. Let's see where they are physically and mentally. As days pass and load increases, training will become demanding. We are behind some countries but we are ahead of others. It is important that we start and go back to what is normal as soon as possible."

The coaching team will have a key meeting on Monday to decide the dos and don'ts during training. Sparring is currently not permitted, but Nieva is hopeful that his wards can go back to full-fledged training soon. "From my side, logically speaking, after a few weeks we should be able to do normal training," he said

About match fitness, Nieva felt it would take a few weeks. "Some will take three weeks but some might take two months. Some of them would have gained weight. Normally, within two to three weeks they should be able to shed most of the weight that they have put on. Some might take longer and we have to plan accordingly."

Nine boxers are in this lot — Amit Panghal, Deepak Kumar, Gaurav Solanki, Mohammed Hussamuddin, Kavinder Singh Bisht, Ashish Kumar, Brijesh Yadav, Sanjeet. Solanki missed a quota during the Asia/Oceania Olympic qualifiers. Giving him competition will be Kavinder and Hussamuddin.

For the record, it's over and not out for Ganguly

ATREYO MUKHOPADHYAY @ Chennai

THIS is no breaking news. But just for the record to say that Sourav Ganguly's term as BCCI president ended on Sunday, following the cooling-off rule. Going by the book, he has to take a three-year break before he can return to cricket administration in India, be it in BCCI or in any state association. He can, however, hold a post in ICC if the BCCI clears him, with the support of a majority of other national boards.

As reported earlier, tenure ending doesn't mean Ganguly will step aside. The BCCI has sought a revision of the cooling-off rule and that appeal is scheduled for hearing on August 17. Although no announcement has been made, there are indications that the board thinks the office-bearers can continue until the court passes an order. Not just Ganguly, secretary Jay Shah is also holding office under that presumption after his term got over in May.

There are voices in BCCI pointing out that the court doesn't have to confirm when and if an official's term is getting over. They become disqualified automatically after the last date. In the case of Ganguly, it was July 26 this year, considering that he became secretary of Cricket Association of Bengal on July 27 in 2014. He became president of the state body in September next year and the BCCI president in October, 2019. But this group is silent and unwilling to speak out in any official BCCI forum.

Importantly from the board's point of view, there is another section — which happens to be in the majority — that thinks it should be the status quo as long as the court doesn't say anything. In an encouraging sign for this group, the judges have not dismissed the BCCI's review appeal.

Curiously, very few of the board members have spoken about the practical difficulties of electing a new president and secretary under present circumstances. According to rules, a position vacated by an office-bearer has to be filled up in 45 days. This can only be done by conducting elections, which does not seem possible as long as movement restrictions are in place.

United back in Champions League, Chelsea retain place in elite group

Manchester United players celebrate beating Leicester City in their Premier League match on Sunday | AFP

AFP @ London

MANCHESTER United and Chelsea sealed Champions League places on Sunday as Bournemouth and Watford got relegated on a dramatic final day of the longest Premier League season.

Liverpool were crowned champions last month, but there were many issues at stake in the final 90 minutes of a campaign that started on August 9 last year and was interrupted by a three-month coronavirus shutdown.

United finished third after a 2-0 win in a Champions League shootout against Leicester while Chelsea ended in fourth spot after beating Wolves 2-0.

At the other end of the table, Bournemouth and Watford dropped to the Championship while Aston Villa breathed a sigh of relief after they got the draw they needed at West Ham.

EPL TOP 10

TEAM	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
LIV	38	32	3	3	52	99
CTY	38	26	3	9	67	81
UTD	38	18	12	8	30	66
CHL	38	20	6	12	15	66
LEI	38	18	8	12	26	62
TOT	38	16	11	11	14	59
WOV	38	15	14	9	11	59
ARS	38	14	14	10	8	56
SHU	38	14	12	12	0	54
BUR	38	15	9	14	0	54

- Top four qualify for Champions League.
- Fifth to seventh-placed teams qualify for Europa League.
- If Arsenal win FA Cup, they will qualify for Europa League.
- Bournemouth and Watford relegated to Championship.

23

Jamie Vardy of Leicester won the Golden Boot for the first time with 23 goals. At 33, he is the oldest to win the award.

Leicester, in fifth spot, will play in the Europa League next season where they will be joined by Tottenham, who drew 1-1 with Crystal Palace to leapfrog Wolves.

Chelsea required a draw to seal Champions League qualification and two goals in first-half stoppage time gave them breathing space. Mason Mount and Olivier Giroud scored for them.

Final day results: Southampton 3 Sheffield United 1; Newcastle 1 Liverpool 3; Manchester City 5 Norwich 0; Burnley 1 Brighton 2; Arsenal 3 Watford 2; Crystal Palace 1 Tottenham 1; Everton 1 Bournemouth 3; West Ham Aston Villa 1; Leicester 0 United 2; Chelsea 2 Wolves 0.

Global updates

Fifth straight defeat for Anand in Legends

CHENNAI: Viswanathan Anand suffered his fifth straight loss in the $150,000 Legends of Chess online tournament, going down 2-3 to Peter Leko of Hungary. Anand got off to a good start and won the first game of the best-of-four contest. The next two games were drawn before Leko levelled by winning the fourth. The Hungarian then claimed the Armageddon to ensure he remain winless. Anand had earlier lost to Peter Svidler, Magnus Carlsen, Vladimir Kramnik and Anish Giri.

Golfer Atwal slips in Round 3 of 3M Open

BLAINE (US): India's Arjun Atwal squandered early momentum in the third round, registering an even-par 71 score to slip to tied 62nd at the 3M Open golf tournament. Two chip-in birdies gave Atwal the momentum at the start, but was unable to keep it going. He began with three birdies in his first six holes on the back side of the course. But he not only gave away those gains on 18th, first and third, but was also unable to get any more birdies to slip from from tied 51st. He is 13 strokes behind the lead.

England tour for blind women's team in 2021

BENGALURU: India blind women's team will tour England in July 2021. The decision was announced at the virtual annual general meeting of the Cricket Association for the Blind in India (CABI) on Saturday. Mahantesh GK, CABI president, said they got the invitation last month. The body also granted provisional recognition to newly formed associations in Chandigarh, Assam, Sikkim, Nagaland and Meghalaya.

Broad burst pushes Windies to the brink

AGENCIES @ Manchester

STUART Broad claimed two quick wickets to leave the West Indies in tatters on Day 3 of the third Test at Old Trafford in Manchester on Sunday. With the visitors set an improbable target of 399, the pacer, who scalped six wickets in the first essay, sent back opener John Campbell and night watchman Kemar Roach to reduce them to 10 for two. Shai Hope and Kraigg Brathwaite will resume batting on Monday with rain predicted to play a role in the two days.

England had declared their second innings at 226 for two with Rory Burns (90) and Dom Sibley (56) sharing a stand of 114 — England's first-century opening stand in a home Test since Alastair Cook and Alex Hales put on 126 against Pakistan at Edgbaston in 2016. England captain Joe Root was 68 not out.

No side has made more in the fourth innings to win an Old Trafford Test than England's 294-4 against New Zealand in 2008.

Earlier, Broad finished with figures of 6-31 in the first innings to fold out the Caribbean for a paltry 197. The tourists though managed to avoid the follow-on but faced a first-innings deficit of 172 runs. With his two wickets in the second essay, Broad has now moved to 499 wickets.

Brief scores
England 369 & 226/2d (Burns 90, Root 68 n.o, Sibley 56) vs West Indies 197 (Broad 6/31) & 10/2.

Stuart Broad celebrates a wicket in Manchester on Sunday | AFP

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Sealed and superscribed tenders are invited separately from the System Integrators under two cover system subject to the conditions prescribed in the tender documents for **"Design, Supply, Implement, Commission, Operate & Manage the Safe City Solution"** as a part of Nirbhaya Safe City Project for Metropolitan Transport Corporation.

TENDER SCHEDULE					
Issue Date	Closing Date & Time	Opening Date & Time	Tender document Cost Including GST in Rs.	EMD in Rs.	Prebid meeting date and time
27.07.2020	14.09.2020 upto 15.00 Hrs	14.09.2020 at 15.30 Hrs	17,700/-	70,00,000/-	14.08.2020 at 11.00 hrs

The Tender document can be obtained in person on all working days between **10.30 Hours** and **16.30 Hours** and also be downloaded from the tender website **www.tenders.tn.gov.in.** Such downloaded tender document shall be accompanied by tender document cost **Rs.17,700/-** (inclusive of GST) by Demand Draft drawn in favour of **"the Managing Director, Metropolitan Transport Corporation (Chennai) Ltd", payable at "Chennai"** any modification (if any) in tender terms and tender invitation period will be uploaded in the website and the tenderers are requested to go through the above website.

DIPR/2796/TENDER/2020 MANAGING DIRECTOR

BHARAT COKING COAL LIMITED
'A Mini Ratna Company'
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)
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All the tenders* issued by Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on website of BCCL **www.bcclweb.in,** Coal India Limited (CIL) e-procurement portal **https://coalindiatenders.nic.in** and Central Public Procurement portal **https://eprocure.gov.in.** In addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal **https://gem.gov.in.**
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CIN : L93090TN1956GOI003507 Website : www.nlcindia.com
CREATING WEALTH FOR WELLBEING

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS FOR WORKS (e-Tender Sl. No.5 & 7)

Sl.No.	Tender Ref./Description of works
1.	**UNIT : MINE-I : MI/NASH/SMD/PTE/B023/2020-21 :** Hi-Tech Cultivation-Installation of drip irrigation system for Cultivation of vegetables in dumping area of Mine-I (15Ha) - Phase-II **EMD :** ₹ 93,000/-
2.	**M/BMC/SME/PTE/D011/20-21 :** Mines-BMC-2020-22-SME - Supply of safety glasses and rubber beading and fixing of safety quality glass with rubber beading in the cabins in SME/M-I, M-IA & M-II and other equipments in conveyor divisions/M-I, IA & M-II, FM yard/M-I and M-II & Crawler yard of M-I, M-IA and M-II, BHD of M-I, M-IA & M-II. **EMD :** ₹ 88,000/-
3.	**UNIT : MINE-II : MII/TMC/CON/PTE/C021/20-21 :** Mine-II Expansion-Conveyor-New Lignite Bench System-Maintenance works (Mechanical & Electrical) of 2000 mm conveyor and rail mounted tripper for a period of three years (2020-23). **EMD :** ₹ 65,44,000/-
4.	**UNIT : MINE-IA : MIA/NASH/G&D/PTE/A019/2020-21 :** Providing Additional manpower for carrying out works in G&D Mechanical, Operation and Electrical division of GWC Zone, Mine IA **EMD :** ₹ 1,53,000/-
5.	**UNIT : LA AND R&R DEPARTMENT : GM/LA-R&R/08/2020(PTE) :** Construction of Residential houses for rural category including internal electrification in "A" Block Resettlement Centre, Neyveli **EMD :** ₹ 2,12,000/-
6.	**UNIT : TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATION : 041/OC/20-21 :** Renovation of existing buildings of NLCIL Middle School at Block-12,Neyveli for the establishment of new Industrial Training Institute **EMD :** ₹ 2,39,000/-
7.	**UNIT : TPS-II EXPANSION : GM/Contracts/Thermal/T-460/TS2E/Civil/PTE/2020-21 :** Housekeeping works in Plant and non plant buildings of TPS-II Expansion of NLCIL, Neyveli for a period of 2 years (2020-22) **EMD :** ₹ 3,77,000/-

Cost of Tender Document : Sl.No. 1 to 7 : ₹2,000/- (each)
Approximate value of work : Sl.No.5 : ₹1,00,60,290/-
Gross Tender Value : Sl.No.6 : ₹1,09,09,850.27
Pre Bid Meeting Conference : Sl.No.7 : 03.08.2020 at 11.00 Hrs.
Period of completion/work/contract : Sl. No. 5 : Seven months; Sl. No. 6 : 120 days from the date of handing over of site. Sl. No. 7 : Two years from the date of handing over of site.

S.No.	Last date for sale	Last date for receipt	Date & time of opening
1 & 3	13.08.2020 Upto 15.00 Hrs.	14.08.2020 Upto 15.00 Hrs.	14.08.2020 At 15.30 Hrs.
2	12.08.2020 Upto 15.00 Hrs.	13.08.2020 Upto 15.00 Hrs.	13.08.2020 At 15.30 Hrs.
4	17.08.2020 Upto 15.00 Hrs.	18.08.2020 Upto 15.00 Hrs.	18.08.2020 At 15.30 Hrs.
5	18.08.2020 Upto 16.00 Hrs.	20.08.2020 Upto 15.00 Hrs.	20.08.2020 At 15.30 Hrs.
6	11.08.2020 Upto 16.00 Hrs.	13.08.2020 Upto 14.30 Hrs.	13.08.2020 At 15.00 Hrs.
7	17.08.2020 Upto 16.00 Hrs.	19.08.2020 Upto 14.30 Hrs.	19.08.2020 At 15.00 Hrs.

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Office of the Chief Engineer (Kaveri), 5th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore-09.

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to tender EMD (in Rs.)	Last date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & time for Opening of Tender
1	K-3 Division T.K. Halli	BWSSB/EK3TE/AE1/06/2020/ 351/2020-21, Dt: 17.07.2020	13,03,200/- 32,580/-	03.08.2020 upto 4.00 pm	05.08.2020 after 4.00 pm

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Kaveri-3)

Office of the Chief Engineer (WWM), 5th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G.Road, Bangalore-09.

1	STP V.Valley	BWSSB/EE(STP)/V.V/PV/381/ 2020-21, Dt: 20.07.2020	16.47 lakhs 41,200/-	05.08.2020 upto 5.00 pm	07.08.2020 after 4.00 pm
2	STP V.Valley	BWSSB/EE(STP)/V.V/PV/ 378/2020-21, Dt: 20.07.2020	21.73 lakhs 43,500/-	05.08.2020 upto 5.00 pm	07.08.2020 after 4.00 pm

Sd/- Executive Engineer (STP)V.V

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-Procurement process can be obtained in undersigned office during working hours and from **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

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MSTC Ref No:NMDC/HO/24/20-21/ET/329
NMDC invites bids in e-tender mode on MSTC website (NMDC's e-tender service provider) : **http://www.mstcecommerce.com** for the work of ***"Design, Manufacture, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 4 sets of 25 kWp Grid Interactive Roof Top Solar Power Plant, one each for Kailash Nagar Barrack, Camp Office-Dep. 11C, Time Office-Dep. 11B & Service Centre-Dep.14, at Bailadila Iron Ore Mine (BIOM), Kirandul Complex on Lump Sum Turnkey (LSTK) basis and Comprehensive AMC (CAMC) for 5 Years."***
For viewing/downloading the schedule of e-bidding and the detailed NIT along with pre-qualification requirements and tender document, prospective bidders may visit MSTC web site link : **http://www.mstcecommerce.com/eprochome/nmdc/** and register on-line as 'New Vendor'. For further help, the 'Vendor Guide' given therein may be referred. Link to MSTC e-tender platform is also available through NMDC website **www.nmdc.co.in.** The tender documents can also be accessed from NMDC website : **www.nmdc.co.in** and CPP Portal **http://eprocure.gov.in**
Any corrigendum to the tender will be uploaded only in above mentioned websites. Prospective bidders should visit these websites from time to time to take note of corrigendum, if any.
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General Manager (Contracts)

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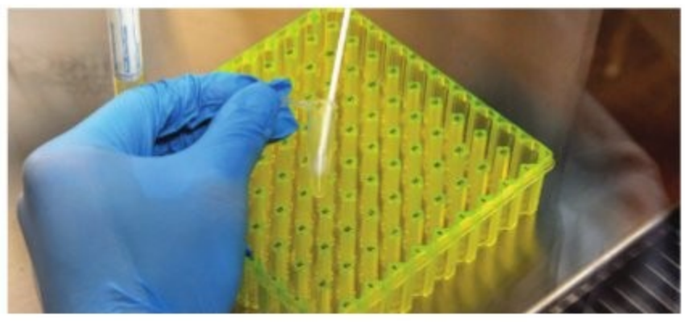
› FRANKLIN D ROOSEVELT

Researchers have developed a free mobile app which will allow scientists to investigate the use of wearable devices and smartphones for digital detection of Covid-19. The research team has created the 'Mass Science' app that allows Covid-Collab study participants to connect wearables, such as Fitbit devices, and share data including heart rate, activity and sleep.

Gene mutation predisposes people to severe Covid-19

Researchers identified TLR7 as a key player in the immune response against virus, a finding that may help find a treatment for the disease



NEW FINDINGS

LONDON: Scientists have identified a gene in humans which they say could be an essential player in the immune response against the novel coronavirus, an advance that may lead to better understanding and treatment of Covid-19.

The research, published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, analysed variation of the genetic make-up of four young male patients with severe Covid-19 from two families, who did not have any preexisting medical conditions that made them predisposed to the deadly disease.

According to the scientists from Radboud University Medical Center in the Netherlands, the patients had variants of the gene TLR7, along with defects in the production of immune system molecules type I and II interferons.

They said the patients who were previously well before developing respiratory insufficiency due to severe Covid-19, required mechanical ventilation in the ICU.

A rapid clinical sequencing of all the genes performed in the study, and segregation in available family members, found that the variants of the TLR7 gene in the patients had a loss-of-function.

"In this case series of four young male patients with severe Covid-19, rare putative loss-of-function variants of X-chromosomal TLR7 were identified that were associated with impaired type I and II IFN responses," the scientists wrote in the study.

> **So it seems that the virus can replicate undisturbed because the immune system does not get a message that the virus has invaded**
>
> Alexander Hoischen, study co-author

The researchers explained that TLR-genes help produce a family of protein receptors on the surface of human cells that play an important role in the recognition of pathogens.

They said these receptors recognise infectious agents like bacteria and viruses in the body and activate the immune system.

"TLR7 triggers the production of so-called interferons, signaling proteins that are essential in the defence against virus infections," the scientists explained.

Earlier research had noted that alterations in the TLR7 gene may result in hardly any of these receptor proteins from being produced.

While TLR7 function had so far never been associated with an inborn error of immunity, the new findings, according to the scientists, indicate that its role is essential for protection from the novel coronavirus.

"So it seems that the virus can replicate undisturbed because the immune system does not get a message that the virus has invaded," explained geneticist Alexander Hoischen, a co-author of the study.

"Because TLR7, which must identify the intruder and subsequently activate the defense, is hardly present. That could be the reason for the severity of the disease in these brothers," Hoischen said.

The researchers also come across another pair of young brothers who have fallen seriously ill with Covid-19, and admitted in the ICU for mechanical ventilation.

When the scientists investigated the genetic code of these two brothers, they again saw a mistake in the makeup of the TRL7 gene.

"The effect on the gene is the same, however, because these brothers also do not make sufficient functional TLR7 protein. Suddenly we had four young people with a defect in the same gene, all of whom had fallen seriously ill from the SARS-CoV-2 virus," Hoischen said.

NETWORKING MATTERS

Researchers at Georgetown University and Duke University report that dolphins under age 10 seek out peers and activities that could help them forge bonds and build skills they'll need in adulthood

30 YEARS OF DATA

The team analysed nearly 30 years' worth of records for more than 1,700 wild bottlenose dolphins in Shark Bay in Western Australia

Since the 1980s, researchers have been taking boats out into this remote bay and noting things like the sex, age and behaviour of any dolphins they encountered

METHODOLOGY

For the current study, the team focused on data collected on youngsters from weaning to age 10

They studied who the mammals hung out with and how they spent their time when no adults were around

DOLPHIN INDEPENDENCE

3-4 YEARS OLD

Age the dolphins leave the protection of their mothers to venture off on their own

During this period they live in ever-changing groups that come together, split up and come together again in different combinations

EXFILE

Dolphins choosy in making friends

A new study published this month in the journal *Behavioral Ecology*, claims just like humans, young dolphins also choose their friends wisely. The findings show how wild bottlenose dolphins devote more time to building connections that could give them an edge later on. We take a look

FINDINGS

The study revealed that, even though young dolphins flit from group to group as often as every ten minutes throughout the day, they tend to spend more time with a few close friends

DID YOU KNOW?

COMPANIONSHIPS

These companions aren't just friends because they share the same areas of water and bump into each other more often, but reflect true preference, the research shows

RESPONSIBLE FEMALES

Nursing moms need more calories, and so young females may spend more time foraging to practice skills they'll need later on, before the full realities of motherhood set in. This suggests that social lives of young dolphins are shaped by the upcoming demands of adulthood, said researchers

BOYS HAVE MORE FUN

Males prefer to hang out with other males; females with other females. But researchers observed that males and females tend to interact in different ways:

1. Males were more likely than females to spend their time together resting or engaged in friendly physical contact: rubbing flippers and swimming close together

2. Whereas females socialised less often and instead spent twice as much time as their male counterparts foraging for fish

Breast cancer rates rising rapidly, finds *Lancet* study

NEW STUDY

TORONTO: In a study conducted in 41 countries, researchers have revealed that breast cancer rates among women are on the rise globally.

The research, published in the journal *The Lancet Global Health*, found that in higher-income nations rates of breast cancer in premenopausal women are increasing, while postmenopausal breast cancer is increasing more rapidly in lower-income countries.

Although breast cancer is thought to be a disease of the developed world, almost 50 per cent of breast cancer cases and 58 per cent of deaths occur in less developed countries, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

Although the study provides evidence of an increase in breast cancer rates in women of all ages, the increase in premenopausal breast cancer in higher-income countries is particularly concerning, according to the researchers.

Premenopausal breast cancer was significantly increasing in 20 out of 44 populations, they said. Postmenopausal breast cancer is significantly increasing in 24 out of the 44 populations, most notably in countries undergoing transitions from lower to higher-income status.

The research team said that this could be a result of these countries adopting a more Western lifestyle that includes unhealthy behaviours that increase breast cancer risk such as lower levels of physical activity and increased alcohol consumption.

Scientists decode how Covid-19 virus mimics host cells' genetics

CAMOUFLAGE

Houston: Scientists, including those of Indian-origin, have resolved the structure of a molecule which the novel coronavirus uses to make its genetic sequence seem like a part of the host's own, an advance that may lead to the development of new antiviral drugs against Covid-19.

According to the study, published in the journal *Nature Communications*, the molecule nsp10 modifies the viral mRNAs (which are blueprints for producing proteins) to mimic host cell's own mRNAs. The researchers from the The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (UT Health San Antonio) said by enabling this modification, nsp10 protects the virus from host cell immune response.

"It's a camouflage. Because of the modifications, which fool the cell, the resulting viral messenger RNA is now considered as part of the cell's own code and not foreign," said Yogesh Gupta, a co-author of the study from UT Health San Antonio. According to the researchers, deciphering the 3D structure of nsp16 paves the way for the design of new drugs against the novel coronavirus, and other emerging coronavirus infections.

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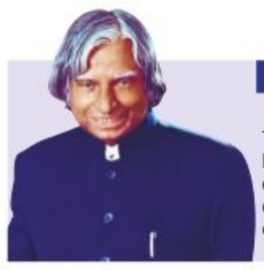


DAY'S DIARY

Death anniversary

Former President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam died on this day in 2015 after collapsing during a lecture at the Indian Institute of Management in Shillong

PIONEER IN SCIENCE

Fondly known as the Missile Man of India, Kalam was a specialist in aeronautical engineering. As a scientist, he had made several contributions to Indian space research programmes

INTO THE SPACE

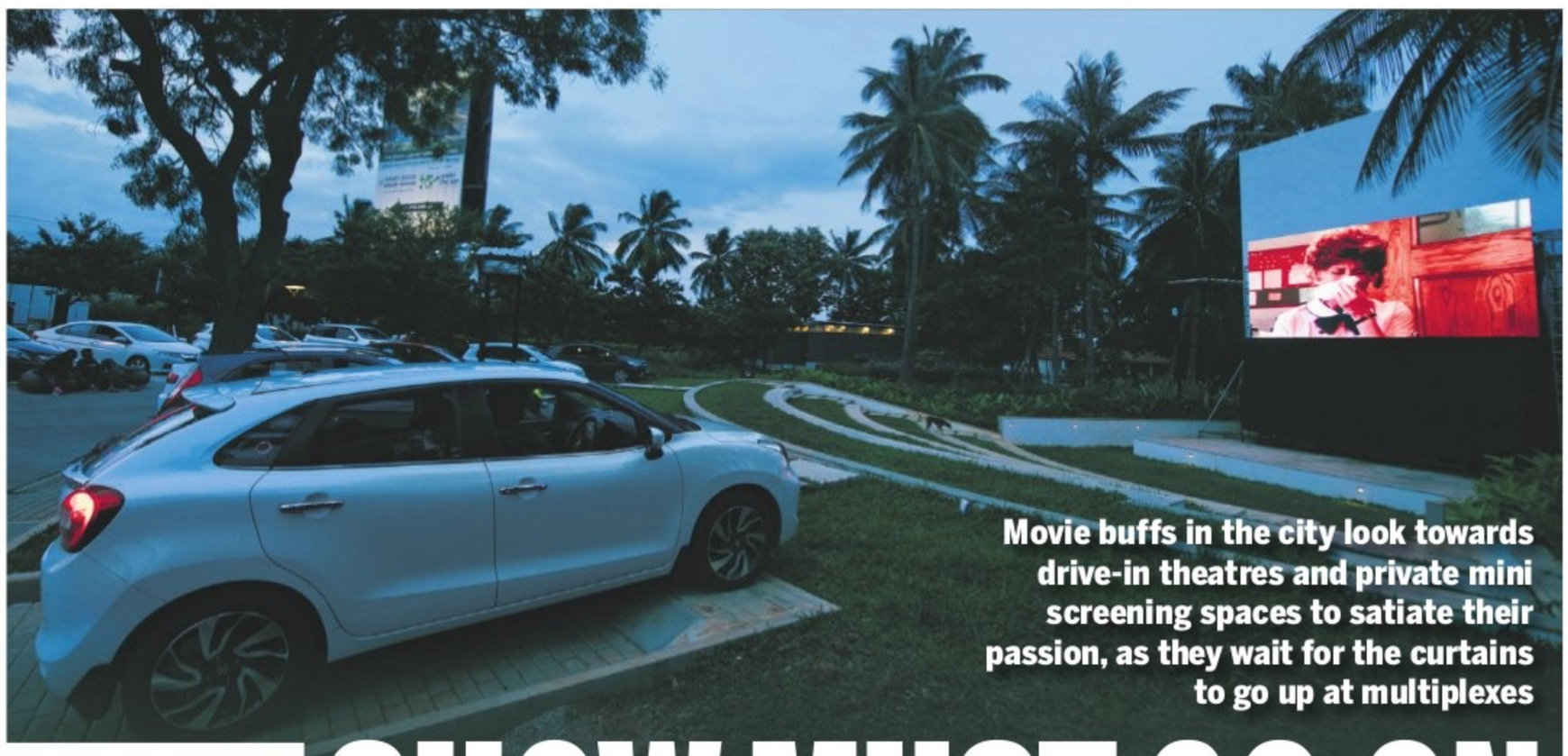
He developed India's first indigenous Satellite Launch Vehicle (SLV-III) that successfully injected the Rohini satellite in the near earth orbit in July 1980 and made India an exclusive member of Space Club

MISSILE MISSION

He was responsible for the development and operationalisation of Agni and Prithvi missiles. He also weaponised missile systems and the Pokhran-II nuclear tests

Karabuu song in Telugu to be out in August

PG 4



Movie buffs in the city look towards drive-in theatres and private mini screening spaces to satiate their passion, as they wait for the curtains to go up at multiplexes

SHOW MUST GO ON

Sahithya

Drive-in theatres are great for customers who have not got a chance to enjoy a large-screen movie experience in five months
—Kritika Tater.
brand head, SteppinOut

● **Simran Ahuja**

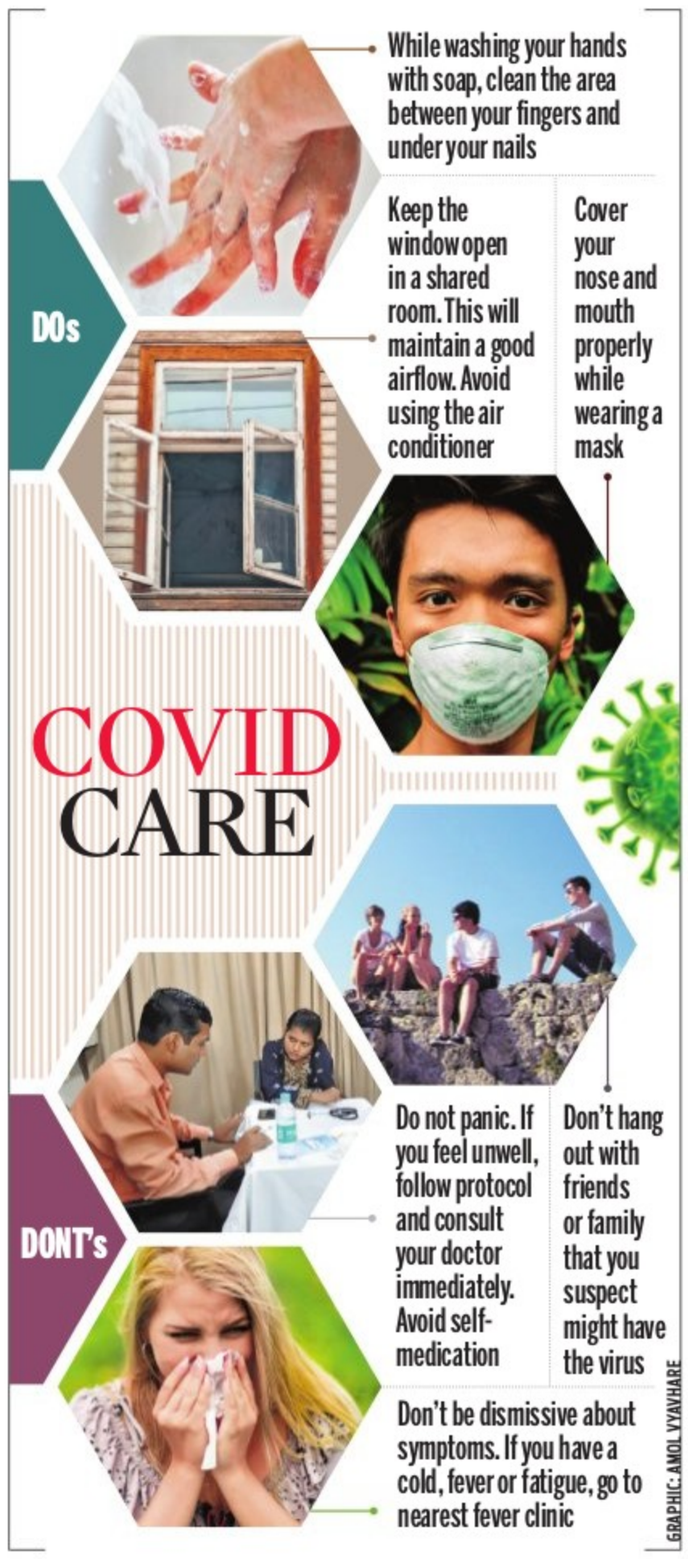
A large-screen playing your favourite movie, complete with surround sound, popcorn and other snacks... Watching a movie in a mall may be the things that dreams are made of right now, but Bengalureans are finding new ways to recreate the cinematic experience for themselves. Take, for instance, SteppinOut, which was famous for its 'movie under the stars' experiences, which came to a halt due to the pandemic. But in true show-must-go-on spirit, they have adapted the experience to introduce a 'drive-in' theatre concept, or as brand head Kritika Tater explains, "Customers drive to the venue in their own vehicles, watch the movie from their cars with audio playing through their car music system via bluetooth, order food online with a completely contactless system, and have a fun cinematic experience while maintaining social distancing."

A popular concept around the world, drive-in theatres are a safe way to enjoy an outdoor experience, while still complying with Covid safety norms. SteppinOut's first show was held earlier this month, and they have screened movies like *Grease*, *The Conjuring 2*, *Shrek* and *English Vinglish*. "We allow four people in each car, and only allow 17 vehicles per event," says Tater, adding that due to the spike in the number of cases in the city, the brand is hoping to resume the event by the first weekend of August. Besides safety, the idea also creates a huge nostalgia factor as drive-ins were the rage in the late '70s. "And it's great for customers who have not got a chance to enjoy a large-screen movie experience in five months," she says.

The same reason drove Mourya Pantham to rent out Binge Club, a private mini theatre in the city. On July 1, the Whitefield-based techie took his wife to the mini theatre in HSR Layout in order to celebrate her birthday. The two movie buffs used to watch at least one movie a week in theatres before and found this to be the closest they could get to the experience. "Our last movie outing was in February. And even though we can watch films at home, the experience is not the same because we don't have a surround sound system. And the screen's resolution and size really matters too," says Pantham, who watched the film *Roja* with his wife.

Mourya Pantham and Roja

Like Pantham, other film lovers too seem to be coming from distances far from HSR Layout for this experience. Sahithya, co-founder of Binge Club, has seen them come from Vijayanagar and Hebbal for the experience, and some return for seconds as well. "From June 8 to July 14, we saw Friday evenings and Saturdays packed with 6-10 bookings," she says. Upon making a booking, customers can choose to stream content from any OTT platform they have an account with. "We also noticed a surge in enquiries because now, movies like *Dil Bechara* and *Shakuntala Devi* are releasing directly on OTT platforms. Now that people have consumed most of what the sites already had, they want to enjoy these new offerings in the same theatre like ambience," says Sahithya.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Don't be dismissive about symptoms. If you have a cold, fever or fatigue, go to nearest fever clinic
GRAPHIC: AMOL VYAVHARE

CITY READ

Healthcare IT firm supports medical communities

Emids, a firm that provides IT solutions to the healthcare industry, donated essential equipment to medical professionals in frontline of fight against Covid-19 at Bangalore Medical College and Research Center. The company provided 300 PPE kits, 300 N95 masks, and food for nearly 60 members of the hospital's Covid-19 response team for 30 days, through a contribution of ₹8 lakh.

YOUNG MINDS AT WORK

Playing up stories of inspiration

● **Muneef Khan**

Overcoming struggles of the mind can be a tedious process. Sharing stories of inspiration to help others overcome challenges is city-based school student and Under-19 state cricketer, Aryan Joshi. After the popularity of his online initiative, titled Mental Strength Matters, which features sportspersons talking about their struggles in 2-3-minute video clips, Joshi has now expanded the project.

While he is currently hosting the third season of his initiative, he has also started a longer 10-minute format, titled MSM Direct. The first episode, featuring former Indian cricket team skipper Mohd Azharuddin, was posted on Saturday on IGTV. The upcoming episodes in the series will feature cricket legend Kapil Dev and former badminton player Pullela Gopichand.

Speaking about the idea behind the initiative, Joshi says it was the nationwide lockdown, when he was unable to practise cricket, that led him to think about improving one's mental strength. "There wasn't much room for physical activity and I looked towards areas where sportspersons and athletes could improve upon. Mental health and character building emerged as crucial subjects. Initially, I planned to continue this only during the lockdown, but when I interviewed more athletes and understood how they overcame their own challenges, I decided to dive further into the project," he adds.

The series, which started in April, has already witnessed 63 videos posted from sports personalities like Mayank Agarwal, Yuvraj Singh, Yuzvendra Chahal, Rohan Bopanna, Rohan Gavaskar, Neil Mckenzie and Nisha Millet. Joshi says the experience was also a learning curve for him, with each person having a different approach towards their challenges. He adds, "When I interviewed Mayank Agarwal, he emphasised on the period when he was trying to get into the Indian Test team and focused on meditation and peaceful thinking. That is something everyone can apply to their daily lives. Going in-depth with the project has also helped me build my character and deal with obstacles."

Joshi also emphasised on former Indian cricketer Mithali Raj and how she pushed through her knee injury during the Women's World Cup. "VVS Laxman too faced a very different challenge, wherein he was conflicted between choosing cricket or pursuing his higher studies since his parents were doctors and he was a bright student himself. He had that dilemma, but he backed cricket, and it paid off," he explains, pointing out that while his initiative is targeted towards helping young and budding athletes, the stories resonate with every age group.

When I interviewed more athletes and understood how they overcame their own challenges, I decided to dive further into the project
—Aryan Joshi

Rohan Bopanna

Mohd Azharuddin

Two students and a podcast

● **Express Features**

These days, Om Nakshatra Bhardwaj has more to look forward to after his daily online classes. Thanks to a podcast started by him and fellow student Samit Lambu, the 17-year-old spends the hours after virtual classes either editing an episode or conducting research for an upcoming one. Called Gravity Podcast, it was started with an aim to motivate others, especially those with a specific talent who were unsure about where to begin.

"We speak to professionals from different fields, like food, photography, and entrepreneurship, to get inputs about life in their respective sectors. Now, instead of spending time scrolling through social media, I prepare for more episodes," says Lambu, who like Bhardwaj, is a commerce student at Deeksha, Kanakpura.

So far, three episodes, featuring fashion photographer Jason Bell, vitiligo advocate Sushamitha Jain and tennis player Adil Kalyanpur, have been released on the YouTube channel called Gravity Come Up, with more to be released every Sunday. The future lineup of guests includes illusionist Sanchit Batra, and beats producer Jules Kyng. Each episode lasts for 30 minutes.

Jason Bell

"One of our guests is Anand Raja, the founder of zero-waste juice shop, Eat Raja. So those aspiring to enter food business could get inspired and use similar concepts to reduce waste," says Lambu. While he and Bhardwaj co-host the show, editing is done by Sai Samarth, a student of Sri Chaitanya School.

They also make sure to incorporate a segment on mental health in the show. Questions to guests usually involve how their venture has been affected by the pandemic and how they deal with it. "We talk so much about the need to be physically healthy. We need to do the same for mental health too, especially right now," says Nakshatra.

Om Nakshatra Bhardwaj

Samit Lambu

While they aim to inspire others, the process is not devoid of learning for them either. Lambu, for instance, has realised that being extroverted leads to more opportunities. "Talking to different people changes the way you think. I've learned that the trick to get people to open up is to make them forget that the conversation is being recorded," he says. Agrees Bhardwaj, who adds, "I've got better at editing, and there's so much to learn with the research that goes into an episode. I am happy I have something to keep me occupied."

BREAD DOSA

INGREDIENTS

- **Bread slice:** 2
- **Dosa batter:** 1/2 cup
- **Onion:** 1, finely chopped (optional)
- **Coriander leaver:** Finely chopped
- Oil

METHOD

- Add onion and coriander to dosa batter.
- Dip the bread slice in the batter. Coat well on both sides.
- Heat a tawa, pour some oil on it. Place the coated bread slice on the tawa. Spread a teaspoon of oil on it. Allow it to turn brown on medium flame.
- Flip it to the other side and cook the same way with little oil. Remove from tawa when both sides turn brown.
- Serve hot with chutney or tomato sauce.

– by Rama Shecar, Kochi

QUICK FIX

What's cooking IN YOUR KITCHEN DURING THIS LOCKDOWN?

We are hungry for recipes with minimum ingredients and maximum flavours. Share your quick-fix with us, along with step-by-step photos, at cityexpresschn@gmail.com.

TWEET OF THE DAY

GREEN BEE-EATER (MEROPS ORIENTALIS)

- This is a small bird that is intensely green with greenish-blue throat, a thin black throat band, and has long feathered tails.
- Found widely in sub-Saharan Africa, the Nile valley, western Arabia and Asia through India to Vietnam.
- They mainly eat insects and are found in grasslands, fields, farmlands and forest, far away from water.

Photo: Elangovan Viswanathan

BRIGHT SPOT

NEST IN PEACE

Potthakudi in Tamil Nadu's Sivaganga district has kept its street lights off for the last 40 days to help an oriental magpie-robin lay her eggs and nest in peace. This came about when Karuppu Raja, in-charge of operating the street lights, noticed a small blue bird flying out of the main switchboard. One day, he saw three tiny eggs in the nest. He wanted to allow the bird to take shelter without being disturbed. But, that meant he could not turn on the 35 street lights. He took a picture of the nest and circulated it on a WhatsApp group that has all residents of the locality. He explained his desire to let the bird lay its eggs in piece. Most villagers thought of this as an opportunity to give back to nature and agreed. When he approached the village panchayat heads, they agreed to cut the power line. They also went from door to door advising residents to stay vigilant in the dark. According to the Panchayat heads, power will be restored to the street lights only after the birds have abandoned the nest.

Source: The Better India

APPSMART

MX TakaTak

MX TakaTak is a short video community, made by MX Media & Entertainment in India. On MX TakaTak, there is rich video content and you can create anything out of your imagination.
Available on: Android & iOS

Moj

Moj is India's own short video app – a hot new stage to show your flaming talent to the world.
Available on: Android

Bunny Live

Broadcasts on this smartphone app platform is intended to help users connect with hundreds of livestream idols.
Available on: Android

FIT BIT

CHANDRA BHEDANA PRANAYAMA

(LEFT NOSTRIL BREATHING)

The word 'Chandra' means 'moon' and 'Bhedan' means 'breaking through something'. The two nostrils are called Surya nadi (right nostril or Pingala nadi) and Chandra nadi (left nostril or Ida nadi). Here inhalation is done through the left nadi and exhalation through the right. The energy passes through Ida nadi on inhalation and through Pingala on exhalation. They travel from the bottom of the spine to the middle of the eyebrows.

STEPS

- Sit in the Swastikasana or Padmasana comfortably.
- Keep the trunk and spine straight and take a few relaxed breaths before starting the practice.
- Keep your fingers in pranayama mudra – press the index and middle finger of your hand towards the palm.
- Use your right thumb to close the right nostril. If you are left-handed, then make the pranayama mudra with your left hand and close the right nostril with index and middle finger of your left hand.
- Inhale slowly and deeply through your left nadi (Puraka) until your lungs are filled with maximum air.
- Hold for a few seconds. Gradually increase the duration of the hold (Antara Kumbhaka).
- Exhale slowly through the right nadi (Rechaka). Hold for a few seconds. Gradually increase this time reflecting upon how the breath and nervous system responds (Bahya Kumbakha).
- Repeat 10 times.

BENEFITS

- Helpful in reducing body heat.
- Useful in heart problems.
- Refreshes body and mind; and kicks out laziness.
- Very effective for those with high blood pressure.
- Helps reduce fever.
- Decreases the flow of gall.
- Daily practice makes the mind steady.
- Helps in reducing tension, stress and other mental problems.

LIMITATIONS

- Avoid this if you have asthma, low blood pressure, cough, cold, and problems related to the respiratory system.
- Don't hold your breath for too long in the initial stage. Breathe in through the left nostril and breathe out by the right nostril only.
- Maintain the ratio of inhalation, retention and exhalation as 1:4:2 and for beginners 1:2 for inhalation and exhalation with no retention.

– by N Elumalai, PhD scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

SOUND BOARD

SERIAL
Serial is an investigative journalism podcast hosted by Sarah Koenig, narrating a nonfiction story over multiple episodes. The series was co-created and is co-produced by Koenig and Julie Snyder and developed by This American Life.
- On Google Podcast

SHORT STORIES IN TAMIL
Deepan takes the listener, especially the little ones, through inspiring short stories of everyday lives. The simple choice of words and relevant topics make this podcast an engaging one.
- On Apple Podcast

WHAT IF WORLD
What if trees go to school? What if cars could talk? This podcast is for parents who get hard-hitting questions from their kids. It comes with a vivid and imaginative narrative.
- Download from Google Play for free

SPILLED MILK
If you're a food lover, then this one's for you. The podcast from writer-cum-comedians Molly Wizenberg and Matthew Amster-Burton has the pair ruminating on a particular food delicacy laced with humour and anecdotes.
- On Apple Podcast

AMAZING WILDLIFE
This educational series highlights the wonders and diversity of the animal kingdom. The episodes also feature fun and insightful facts about the world's most fantastic animals. - On Apple Podcast

POPULAR ON YOUTUBE

RAMA RAMA RE...
An escaped death row convict ends up taking a road trip with an old man on a personal mission and a young couple trying to elope.
- Cast: K Jayaram, Nataraj, Dharmanna Kadur

DHOL
Guru falls in love with Priya, who is the sister of a wealthy industrialist, Nanda. When Nanda learns about Guru, he is furious and tries to separate him from his sister.
- Cast: Yogesh, Aindrita Ray, Prakash Raj

SHRAVANI SUBRAMANYA
When Shravani finds out that her boyfriend, Sudeep, is a thug, she attempts to escape from his clutches. Subramanya, a budding singer, tries to save her from Sudeep.
- Cast: Ganesh, Amulya

SOORASAMHARAM
Pandian, a police officer, sets out to take revenge on a drug lord for the murder of his best friend, Arun. However, Pandian gets abducted by the criminal and is forced into drug addiction.
- Cast: Kamal Haasan, Janagaraj, Nirosha

Scan this QR code to find out how your favourite celebs are coping with the lockdown.

WHAT'S ON TED TALKS

1 GRIEF AND LOVE IN THE ANIMAL KINGDOM BY BARBARA J. KING
In recent years, new evidence has come to light suggesting that animals as diverse as orcas, elephants, donkeys, and ducks may experience and express profound emotions. How might we humans make the world a better place for other species? Biological anthropologist Barbara J. King explores this question.

2 HOW TO USE RHETORIC TO GET WHAT YOU WANT BY CAMILLE A. LANGSTON
How do you get what you want, using just your words? Aristotle set out to answer that question over 2,000 years ago with a treatise on rhetoric. Camille A Langston describes the fundamentals of deliberative rhetoric and shares tips for appealing to an audience's ethos, logos, and pathos in your next speech.

3 THE BUG THAT POOPS CANDY BY GEORGE ZAIDAN
Some aphid populations can produce hundreds of kilograms of poop per acre. We know this poop as honeydew. George Zaidan explores the wonderfully weird life of an aphid.

4 STOP MAKING MASS SHOOTERS FAMOUS BY TOM TEVES
The news coverage that followed a mass shooting where Tome Teves lost his son focused on all the wrong things. Why did the reporting overwhelmingly fixate on the shooter rather than the lives of the victims or the heroic efforts of first responders? Teves calls for responsible media that acts in the interest of the public.

5 THE INVISIBLE LIFE HIDDEN BENEATH ANTARCTICA'S ICE BY ARIEL WALDMAN
Explorer and artist Ariel Waldman introduces the charismatic creatures lurking beneath Antarctica's massive ice sheet. From water bears to algae made of glass, she shows how this seemingly barren landmass is actually a polar oasis of life.

NOW STREAMING

REGIONAL

DIL BECHARA (Hindi)
Based on the novel 'The Fault in Our Stars' by John Green, Dil Bechara revolves around Kizie and Manny, two cancer patients and how their lives get intertwined.
- Cast: Sushant Singh Rajput, Sanjana Sanghi, Saif Ali Khan
- Watch on: Disney+Hotstar
- Registration: ₹ 399 per year

FRENCH BIRIYANI (Kannada)
A story of multiple characters that come together to entertain you. Don Charles, a notorious kingpin, is on his death bed and calls his son Mani to get their employee Sulaiman to get a 'samaan' (something) from Simon.
- Cast: Danish Sait, Sal Yusuf, Disha Madan, Rangayana Raghu
- Watch on: Amazon Prime
- Registration: ₹ 129 per month

AAMI (Malayalam)
Kamala, a devout admirer of Lord Krishna, gets married to a man who is 20 years older than her. She later goes on to become a famous writer but struggles to deal with relationships and her identity.
- Cast: Tovino Thomas, Manju Warrier
- Watch on: Zee5
- Registration: ₹ 99 per month

U THE END A (Kannada)
Rohan is a young man with a strong political background and his life is turned upside down when he catches a glimpse into the future. The woman with whom he has fallen in love will betray him and end his life.
- Cast: Nagendra Karanik, Kumuda, Ananth Nag
- Watch on: Amazon Prime
- Registration: ₹ 129 per month

PREMACHI GOSHTA (Marathi)
Ram and Sonal grow close to each others since they are unhappy in their respective marriages. However, just when the two are about to confess their feelings, their spouses re-enter their lives.
- Cast: Sagarika Ghatge, Atul Kulkrani, Satish Rajwade
- Watch on: Amazon Prime
- Registration: ₹ 129 per month

All the streaming apps can be accessed on smartphones and smart TVs with Internet connection.

NISABDHAM (Tamil)
A couple leads a content life with their daughter in Bengaluru. However, when the daughter is sexually assaulted by an inebriated stranger, the couple sets out to seek justice for her.
- Cast: Abhinaya, Kishore, Baby Sathanya
- Watch on: Zee5
- Registration: ₹ 99 per month

DORASANI (Telugu)
An impoverished young man and a wealthy landlord's daughter must decide if their blossoming love is worth fighting a repressive social hierarchy.
- Cast: Anand Deverakonda, Shivathmika Rajashekar, Saranya Pradeep
- Watch on: Netflix
- Registration: ₹ 199 per month

ENGLISH/FOREIGN

THE KISSING BOOTH 2 (English)
After a romantic summer together, Noah is off to Harvard, and Elle heads back to high school for her senior year.
- Cast: Joey King, Joel Courtney, Jacob Elrodi
- Watch on: Netflix
- Registration: ₹ 199 per month

GEMINI MAN (English)
Henry is an ageing assassin who finds himself being chased by someone with the ability to predict his moves. He soon discovers that the person is his clone and sets out to discover his origin.
- Cast: Will Smith, Mary Elizabeth Winstead, Clive Owen
- Watch on: Amazon Prime
- Registration: ₹ 129 per month

BATTLE FOR INCHEON: OPERATION CHROMITE (English, Korean)
American General Douglas MacArthur sends eight members of the Korean Liaison Office, led by a South Korean Navy Lieutenant on a secret mission far behind North Korean lines to carry out Operation X-ray.
- Cast: Liam Neeson, Lee Jung-jae, Lee Beom-soo, Jin Se-yeon
- Watch on: Amazon Prime
- Registration: ₹ 129 per month

INVICTUS (English)
Following the aftermath of the apartheid, President Nelson Mandela decides to unite his people by supporting a rugby team in their bid to win the 1995 Rugby World Cup.
- Cast: Morgan Freeman, Matt Damon, Marguerite Wheatley
- Watch on: Netflix
- Registration: ₹ 199 per month

RUBINATIONS
RUBI CHAKRAVARTI
writer, actor and funny girl

WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM MY FRIENDS

Good morning, Bangalore

Last week, I was asked to take a 'chill-pill'. Though I am immediately provoked by the phrase, (it was often used by my teenage children when I was usually right!), I decided to calm down a bit. That meant read a book, listen to my favourite music, and generally ignore a messy house, incessant cooking and the angst of my city and the world. It worked like a charm for some time, till my uncle and aunt both fell ill with the 'dreaded virus' and there wasn't a damn thing I could do about it. The rigmarole that followed and the 'not knowing' that we all so dread, started. No beds, no ventilators, no doctor, no hospitals willing to admit them, no ambulances, no nothing...

Their only daughter and my best friend, Geramin, valiantly held forth from the US, connecting with old school friends who were doctors, to admit her senior citizen father into hospital. She even informed BBMP to seal off her parents' home! Well, the inevitable did happen and we lost my uncle two days before his birthday in hospital. When one can see the despondency up close, it rattles your sense of being to the very core. He was an intelligent pioneer, an expert in his field, loved modern gizmos, and always asked my husband's opinion on some new gadget or the other. Aunty thankfully is recovering but is going to have to face her life without her loving partner and friend. I believe when she last saw him they were holding hands while she gently scolded him about getting better soon. His eyes behind the oxygen mask only dripped with love. He would have wanted us to celebrate his life, not mourn his passing, and all of us are trying to do it in our own ways. Au revoir, Uncle Leslie Sebastian, till we meet again.

The irony of the situation was that I only took to taking a 'chill-pill' after Uncle's passing. Maybe because everyone came together like human beings should! BBMP was very helpful and courteous with Geramin when she was inquiring about the processes that needed to be followed. They were empathetic and understanding and immediately sealed and fumigated her parent's home even with no one there. Geramin's doctor friends made sure that Uncle was comfortable and well looked after, graciously taking suggestions for his care from her doctors in the US. Human beings came together under tragic circumstances to make things better for the grieving daughter who never even got to say goodbye. So many friends who knew my association with him called up to condole. I was touched... and my faith in the human race has picked up a notch or two.

I rely on my friends for a lot of things, especially emotional succour. Though Geramin and I are not related by blood she is my 'sistah' for sure! Both our families, friends and husbands know it. Even the eagle-eyed nuns in college tended to leave us alone because we were fierce when they tried to separate us... two young girls, living on secluded farms, taking refuge in friendship. Our parents were friends, we went to the same college, chose to remain close even though life threw us a curve ball and many challenges. We remained steadfastly committed to our connection... it's got to be love, right?

Closer to home I coped very well thanks to my friends, of course! They all know that my sense of well-being and my stomach are directly connected! Phone calls followed by food are a winning combination. Rekha Ghosh, VP Operations of Farzi, sent me a fabulous chicken tikka masala, followed by Vishal Nagpal's fiery crab curry from Royanna Military Canteen and let's not forget, Seema Jaising's cookies to prawn and black-bean relish from Anirudh and Neeti Kheny from 1Q1. My friends' rock and are my rock!

Geramin Labrie (left) and Rubi Chakravarti

HEALING HER

Singer-turned-life coach Avril Quadros speaks about her struggle in Bollywood and how Kundalini yoga gave her a new purpose in life to help others

Monika Monalisa

Once rocking the stage and enthralling the audience with her voice, **Avril Quadros** has made her life goal to reach out to people on a more spiritual level. The singer-turned-Kundalini yoga practitioner has developed a new practice, called Qundaliniplus, and is coming up with a workshop for women from August 3 onwards. The workshop, called Shakti, will not only focus on physical ailments but also mental stress and trauma that women usually go through.

"Women are born multi-taskers and they not just go through various changes physically but also mentally, whether it's some past trauma or low self-esteem, etc. I wanted to deal with that aspect of them," says Quadros, who started practising Kunadalini yoga in her 40s, on the advice of her doctor when her body started going through hormonal changes. When the therapy helped her control the issues without any hormonal treatment, Quadros wanted to share the same knowledge with other women too. "But I didn't want to give out what everyone can get at the click of a button. Since I have been into pranic healing from before and have been practising power of visualisation, I wanted to make it a wholesome process," says Quadros, who is currently holding online sessions due to the pandemic. "That's how I came up with Qundaliniplus, which, apart from Kundalini yoga, also has pranayama, Tibetan meditation, cognitive therapy, etc," she adds.

With a singing career spanning over 27 years, Quadros has sung for movies like *Kaanchi: The Unbreakable*, a 2014 romantic movie made by Subhash Ghai. Ask her if she considers music to be therapeutic, and she says, "Music surely touches souls, but being in showbiz is stressful. It's completely superficial and if anyone is doing anything for you, be sure that they want something in return, be it sex, money, drugs, etc. I have gone through it all," says the 47-year-old Quadros, revealing that she was blocked by her 'friend' when she asked for any financial help.

Frustrated with how things were turning out, she left Mumbai and came to Bengaluru in 2009 when her father was diagnosed with cancer. And to cope with that she took the help of pranic healing, practising under mentors like renowned trainer Bob Proctor who was featured in the documentary, *The Secret*.

Now, Quadros wants to use her knowledge to help people who are going through similar situations. "Al lot is being spoken about mental health now, especially after the demise of Sushant Singh Rajput. I have been there," says Quadros, adding that she feels grateful that she was able to help many people who were contemplating taking extreme steps.

(For registration and more details about Avril Quadros' Shakti workshop, visit her website)

"Showbiz industry is completely superficial and if anyone is doing anything for you, be sure that they want something in return, be it sex, money, drugs, etc. I have gone through it all —**Avril Quadros,** life coach

IPRS decides to rework fee for online events

Express Features

After the uproar and confusion stirred in the music industry, Indian Performing Rights Society (IPRS) has withdrawn its notification that asked organisers to obtain a licence for live-streaming performances, with costs starting at ₹20,000 for a free, ad-supported or non-sponsored ticketed event. In a statement released on Saturday, IPRS said the notice stands withdrawn, and that they are working towards revised licence fee rates slated to be issued next week. "IPRS is a collective body and is duty bound to represent the interest of its members. But no less equally IPRS is alive to all stakeholder concerns and will continue to support and assist those who respect copyrights," Rakesh Nigam, CEO, said in the statement, which also stated that they have taken note of artistes' concerns. It also emphasised that it continues to hold that live online events in any form should require payment of fair royalties to creators and publishers for the use of their musical compositions and lyrics. Javed Akhtar, chairman of IPRS, said, "Let no one doubt that while IPRS stands for and will continue to protect the interests of creators and publishers alike, it will never overlook the legitimate concerns of other stakeholders, including our singers."

The statement said that IPRS will not charge any licence fee or royalty from free events on YouTube, Facebook and Instagram which are not sponsored/ branded or co-branded/ ticketed/or paid for. This will stay till Covid crisis continues. Also exempt are classical, devotional, folk music events and singers.

Express Features

Twenty one out of the 126 nominations that Neev Literature Festival received from 25 publishers have been shortlisted for the annual Neev Book Award for children's literature. An integral part of the festival, which will be held online in August, is that the award recognises writing for children which delves into a better understanding of India, and the lives and stories of the country. Owing to the pandemic, the festival has been turned online this year, and dates are yet to be decided.

STORY TIME

Quoting Rabindranath Tagore, Kavita Gupta Sabharwal, co-founder of the event, said, "Life must not be the infinite elongation of a straight line. The pandemic has bent if not broken every line in society. But it has also given us the time and space to understand ourselves better, and understanding ourselves is a prerequisite to understanding others. The award recognises that stories not only make us human and humane, but we are the stories we tell our children." She added that the award shortlists are diverse children's stories from India that cover history, environment, adventure, fantasy, biographies, and realistic fiction. "Essentially it synthesises the challenges and excitement of a rapidly changing and rising India," she says.

The award was open to all publishers for children's titles published in India in 2019. It had four categories – Picture Books, Emerging Readers, Junior Readers and Young Adult. The winners, who will be announced later this year, will receive a cash prize of ₹1 lakh each along with a citation. Some of the nominations are *Rattu & Poorie's Adventures in 1857* by Parvati Sharma, and *Friend of Numbers* by Priya Narayanan in the Emerging Readers category. In the Junior Readers category, the nominations include *All of Me* by Venita Coelho, and *Flyaway Boy* by Jane De Suza. In the Young Adult category, the shortlist includes *Being Gandhi* by Paro Anand and *The Prince* by Samhita Arni, while in the Picture Book category, it includes *Ammama's Sari* by author-illustrator Niveditha Subramaniam), and *In My Heart* by author Nandana Dev Sen and illustrator Ruchi Mhasane.

CITY READ

LIC HFL launches new product for pensioners

LIC Housing Finance Ltd has announced a multi-year low rate of interest of 6.90 per cent on new home loans, for retired or serving employees of Central/State government. They have also launched a special home loan product *Griha Varishtha* for pensioners. The tenure is till the attainment of 80 years of age or maximum up to 30 years.

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ARE YOU GAME?
Anusha Ganapathi

Valhalla Thoughts: Too Early?

The Fat Cry 6 cinematic trailer that released last week might have made its way to your social media timeline – it was dramatic. For the newbies out there – the game is about fighting and befriending a big impressive list of animals. The games otherwise do not have any other unifying narrative or common feature. For seasoned gamers, I would describe it as a game from which Red Dead Redemption 2 took the most boring elements (one of it being realism) and made it 10x slower, but also about 2x graphically advanced.

Ubisoft has been busy this week, with both of its main games fighting for public attention. The second one was more important – Assassin's Creed Valhalla. Its predecessor, AC Odyssey, diverged from the series in a rather startling manner. This was the absence of a hidden blade. This caused quite a stir amongst us one-hit kill stealth lovers. It was definite foreshadowing for Valhalla in a way – it was clear that the game wanted to uncloak the weird mystery cult narrative that it had established. But nothing could have prepared us for this drastic shift in genre. Assassin's Creed Valhalla looks like Age of Empires: Ground edition. Or God of War – The RPG. They should seriously consider renaming it.

The focus is on combat now. We now need to strategize the weapons we use on different enemies. I protest this feature. AC was enjoyable only as long as it was mindlessly repetitive. Dual-wielding two shields, I ask you. And all I wanted was the hidden blade back. There is a new raid format in Valhalla – another surprising introduction. Basically, a group of stealthy underground Assassins moonlighting as a mercenary army. Settlement-building is added to the responsibilities of my new Viking character, and we can now go fishing. There are too many changes – reel in the fish, not my head, Ubisoft!

In truth, Ubisoft has taken a necessary leap of faith. The AC series was ahead of its time when it started, and it propelled them along with successes for long enough. While Valhalla has introduced numerous new challenges (though personally contentious, is fun) – the underlying theme of the cult, stealth, and historical monument climbing will probably not change. For now.

A still from *Pogaru*

The film is being made in Kannada and Telugu; team plans to resume shooting for the two remaining songs from August 15

KARABUU SONG FROM *POGARU* TO BE OUT IN TELUGU ON AUGUST 6

CE Features

Dhruva Sarja's *Pogaru* is back in news, with the Telugu version of *Karabuu* song to be out on August 6. The production house has confirmed the news about the song, which became a sensation, getting about 92 million views. The commercial entertainer featuring Rashmika as the female lead is going to be a bilingual film in Kannada and Telugu.

While the Kannada version has been sung by music director Chandan Shetty, who has also written the lyrics, the Telugu version has been penned by Bhaskarabhatla Ravi Kumar, who has written the lyrics for more than 125 films in Telugu. The *Karabuu* song in Telugu has been sung by Anurag Singh. He is currently known for his track, *Ramuloo Ramulaa,* from the Allu Arjun starrer *Ala Vaikunthapurramloo.*

Meanwhile, the *Pogaru* team, led by director Nanda Kishore and producer BK Gangadhar, has completed the post-production work and is left with two songs to complete. The makers are planning to resume shooting from August 15, and preparations are in full swing. Along with Dhruva Sarja and Rashmika, the cast also comprises Dhananjay, Mayuri, Ravi Shankar, Chikkanna and Kuri Pratap.

Pogaru has V Harikrishna and Chandan Shetty composing the background score. Vijay Milton is handling the camera. The film will also feature international bodybuilders Kai Greene, Morgan Aste, Johan Lucas, and Jo Linder in the climax sequences.

I am starting from zero, but this time with some experience: Rakshit Shetty

The actor, director and producer completes 10 years in the film industry; says he values both success and failure, and wants to be remembered for his good work

A Sharadhaa

Ten years ago, Rakshit Shetty forayed into Sandalwood. He soon came to be known as the Simple Star, and took to Twitter on July 23, to thank his fans and the Kannada film fraternity for their wishes. "10 years to *NAOD*... A film which set a foundation for my career and filmmaking. It is hard to belive it's been so long. It feels like yesterday when we were roaming around Gandhinagar to release our film (sic)," he said. The actor also mentioned his decade-long journey, and added, "Wow! A decade! When I look back, I know I have given my best. I've tried my best to mature as an actor and film maker with each film and I trust it will only get better. For the passion and curiosity is still alive...(sic)."

Rakshit Shetty, who came to limelight with *Simple Agi Ondh Love Story (SAOLS)*, later took forward his directorial passion with *Ulidavaru Kandanthe*, when he became a south Indian sensation. The actor-director later also wore the producer's cap, with Paramvah Studios. Talking about the milestone, he tells *CE*, "I didn't even know this 10-year landmark was approaching. I took notice of it three days before the celebration. It was an emotional experience to see so much love coming from fans and my friends from the industry and outside, whom I have gathered in all these years."

Looking back, Rakshit says he is in a good position now, and that this status is a result of a few failures that helped him learn, while every success helped him commercially. "Without even one of them, I wouldn't have been in the state of mind, or in the position, that I am in today. This whole process has given me immense opportunities to do my next film. I value both success and failure," he says.

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>
> — **Rakshit Shetty,** actor

After *Nam Areal Ond Dina*, the *Thuglak* actor went on to do films like *SAOLS*, *Ricky*, *Kirik Party,* and *Avane Srimannarayana,* among others. The career graph of the nine-film old artiste speaks volumes about the quality work he has done. "I want to enjoy work. Some of my projects have taken time, and some haven't. I am also not in a race, where I have to complete 20 or 50 films. I believe that even if you do 50 films, you will be remembered for the best five. So I think it is better that I concentrate on 10 films, and all of them are remembered, or for that matter, even eight 8 films. I just want to be remembered for good work," he explains.

Ask Rakshit if all the experience that he has gained through the years is making him move in a particular direction, and he says, "Being inside the house for almost four months during this pandemic is something that I have been through during my short film days, which was before *SAOLS*. At that time, I just used to read books, watch films, and write, and that's something I have been doing now as well. I feel I am starting from zero, and beginning all over again. The only difference is that when I started 10 years ago, I had no experience. Today, I am into the same process, but with some experience. That's what is exciting me currently."

So what are his goals for the next 10 years? "Right now, I know what will be my next 5-6 films, and I am looking forward to working in each project. Otherwise, I have no set plan about how my next 10 years should be. Nor do I have a target in terms of number of films," says Rakshit, who is looking forward to completing the shoot for Kiranraj's *777 Charlie*, followed by Hemanth M Rao's *Sapta Sagaradaache Yello*, and *Richie*. Meanwhile, his current aim is to start with his next directorial, *Punyakoti* (PK).

The actor, who has a huge fan following in south India, says he will be more than happy when his works reach more and more people. "Until I did *SAOLS*, nobody knew much about Rakshit Shetty. When I made *Ulidavaru Kandanthe,* they said the guy who acted in *SAOLS* has done this. When I did *Kirik Party,* it was something different, and so it was with *Avane Srimannarayana.* The love I am getting from people across south India is for my previous work. Taking it further, I hope my next few films will enable me to reach as many people as possible across India, and outside too," he says. "If I waste one day, and it is extended to the second day, I get this call from my conscience that so many people are loving me and my work, and I can't waste time. This sets a reminder to me, that there is so much to do, and a lot of my work needs to be shown to people," he adds.

Rakshit Shetty

A R Rahman: There is a gang working against me in Bollywood

A R Rahman

CE Features

A R Rahman, in a recent interview, revealed that the reason behind doing less work in Bollywood over the years was that certain people in the Hindi film industry have constantly been spreading rumours about him, denting his chances of getting good work.

This revelation has created quite a furore all over social media. This was told by Rahman in an interview with Radio Mirchi FM when he was asked why he works more in Tamil cinema than in Hindi films. "I don't say no to good movies, but I think there is a gang, which, due to misunderstandings, is spreading some false rumours," said the composer.

Rahman's latest score is for *Dil Bechara*, the late Sushant Singh Rajput's last film that released on OTT this Friday. The film marks the directorial debut of casting director Mukesh Chhabra and has been winning plaudits for its hummable tunes. "When Mukesh Chhabra came to me, I gave him four songs in two days. He told me, 'Sir, many people said don't go to him (Rahman). They told me stories after stories'. I heard that and I realised, yeah okay, now I understand why I get less (Bollywood offers) and why the good movies are not coming to me. I am doing dark movies because there is a whole gang working against me. People are expecting me to do stuff, but there is another gang of people preventing that from happening, without them knowing that they are doing harm," Rahman told the radio station.

A near-perfect send off to Sushant Singh Rajput, a star who dared to dream

Avinash Ramachandran

What is it about death that worries us the most? Is it our dreams going unfulfilled? Is it the hopelessness of not knowing how our loved ones would fare without us? Or is it just the unpredictability of what's in store after death? One might not know the answers to these questions, but in *Dil Bechara,* a film about two star-crossed lovers, each of these gets addressed.

Kizie Basu (Sanjana Sanghi) has thyroid cancer. Immanuel Rajkumar Junior aka Manny (Sushant Singh Rajput) has osteosarcoma. Even the hero's best friend — JP (Sahil Vaid) has optic nerve glaucoma. With so many forms of cancer introduced to us in the first few minutes of the film, and knowing how such films essentially function, we know there will be death. We know there will be sadness. We know there will be copious amounts of tears shed. And yet, with star-crossed lovers, and even star-crossed friends in the mix, Dil Bechara is actually full of life. In ways, it reminds us of inevitability and its beauty, like we came across in films like Anand and *Kal Ho Naa Ho*. If Anand said, "*Zindagi badi honi chaahiye lambi nahi*" and Aman said, "*Jiyo, khush raho, muskuraaho... kya pata Kal Ho Naa Ho*", Manny says, "*Janam kab lena hai, aur marna kab, hum decide nahi kar sakte hain, par kaise jeena hai, hum decide kar sakte hain.*"

Adapted from John Green's best-selling novel, *The Fault in Our Stars, Dil Bechara* (adapted by Shashank Khaitan and Suprotim Sengupta) is essentially a doomed love story held together by effervescent performances and AR Rahman's dreamy soundtrack. Although there are one too many meet-cute moments, Sushant and Sanjana salvage it with their magnetic screen presence that

DIL BECHARA

makes us look past all the corniness. However, after a point, the proceedings do get a bit too run-of-the-mill. The Indianness of the adaptation gets compromised by the film following typical Hollywood romcom tropes. Nevertheless, debutant director Mukesh Chhabra's experience as a casting director comes in handy as every actor on screen brings to life even the most stereotypical characters. Saif Ali Khan in a cameo brings in levity that would have felt too tacky if it wasn't for the actor's experience. Special mention to Saswata Chatterjee and Swastika Mukherjee who play the doting parents of Kizie. Look at the scene where Saswata dances with Sanjana just before prom night. It isn't the most Indian of scenes but a father is a father, be it here or in the West. Similarly, the poignant scenes between Swastika and Sanjana bring out the insecurity and unfiltered love that comes from being a parent. In a way, it reminded me of the scenes between Kalki Koechlin and Revathy in the brilliant Margarita With a Straw.

Director: Mukesh Chhabra

Cast: Sushant Singh Rajput, Sanjana Sanghi, Swastika Mukherjee, Saswata Chatterjee

RATING 3.5/5

As Kizie, Sanjana makes a mark in the meatiest role of her career. In any other film, the relationship between Kizie and her parents would have been the central plot point. But Dil Bechara is not any other film. How could it be with the impact of Sushant Singh Rajput's passing away, looming all over this film?

Every time Manny says something about life and death, the lines between real and reel get blurred. Manny even jokingly says he works in NASA and will soon be going to space. Hand to heart, when Manny says, "I dream big. But I'm not as driven to fulfill it now", is it even possible to not think of Sushant himself? What about when Manny asks Kizie, "Can we just pretend that I'm not dying? That I'm not going anywhere?" How do you suspend disbelief? How can you simply brush it all away as a mere coincidence?

At one point, Sushant, I mean Manny, asks his best friend JP if he would miss him. Well... considering how over the past few weeks all of us seem to have thought of ourselves as his friend, all I can say is, "Hamesha... Always."